

Two and One Half Dollar U.S. Gold 1834-1839.

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Volume 2
Second Edition

20,216,590 pieces coined 1796-1932.

Over 636 varieties & die states.

Many pedigrees, Patterns & Trial-pieces, counterfeits listed.

WB's observations vetted. Compiled from his records, accompanied with his source material shown, for historical purposes only.

The coin industry can be explained herein. Doctrines are never complete due to the vast mintages. In addition entropy in a closed system and in disorder in concert with the Boltzman equation. Breen trusted no person's opinion, he only wrote what he saw in hand. When "reported" is used it is because he could not verify the item.

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RARITIES IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON SENSE

Walter Breen
Vice President, FCI

Every so often it is worthwhile to return to the paramount, perennial questions: How rare is this date? Are there a couple of dozen, a couple of hundred, a couple of thousand, or a couple of million around? Do the price scales in the red book and the gray sheet reflect auction performance, or dealers' wishful thinking, or sheer guesswork?

Constant dealer repetition of "Very Rare," "Extremely Rare" --or even "Excessively Rare"--has generated, on the one hand, a vast collection of erroneous ideas, and on the other hand a cynical skepticism of all similar claims. Even after nearly forty years, Dr. Sheldon's pungent comment still applies: "Numismatics ... has always had its shady fringe of unscrupulous dealers--men who exaggerate condition, rarity, and value when they sell, and understate some or all of these when they buy. These men depend on a large turnover in the collector population, with a resulting continuous supply of suckers. ... Dealers' dreams do sometimes get into print." (Early American Cents, pp. 29, 35.)

even when new specimens are continuing to appear. The more the market for a particular series is manipulated, the more likely that the publicity will stimulate demand.

The way this usually works: a few dealers hoard individual issues or series, publish offers to buy while temporarily offering none for sale, make certain that the buy offers get into the gray sheet; then, after enough others have begun imitating them, especially if the new prices have affected the red book, they unload. A few months later the process repeats with a different series. Your only recourse in this game is to learn the truth about each series. Then you can decide whether to buy a particular series now, or later, or not at all.

In the following sections, I propose to go through the entire series of federal coinages (half cents to double eagles and commemoratives), checking for alleged rarity. In the process, a few balloons are inevitably going to be punctured, and some other issues will show up as rarer than formerly believed. Hitherto unpublished data are from my Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins (Doubleday, in press). As that book deals entirely with major varieties (those in which at least one letter punch, numeral punch, larger design element, or layout, differs from other coins of the same type), rather than minor (positional) varieties, I shall follow the same procedure here.

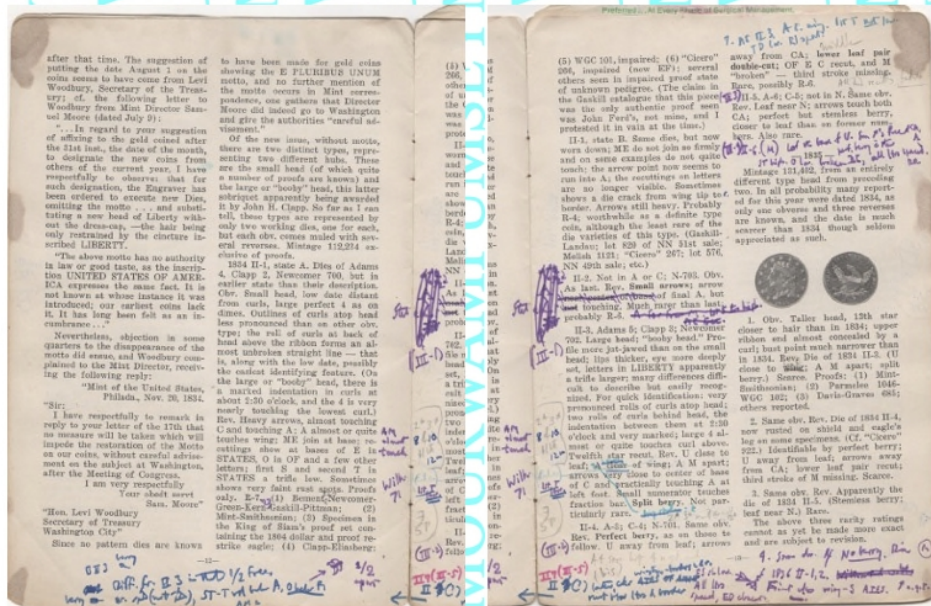
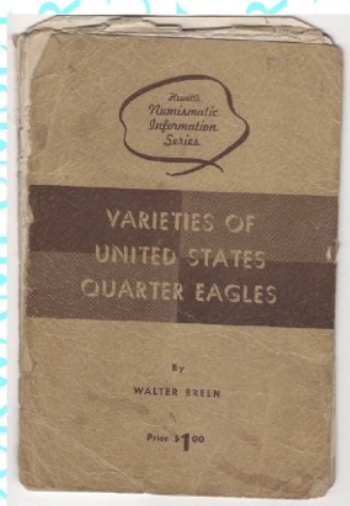
HALF CENT

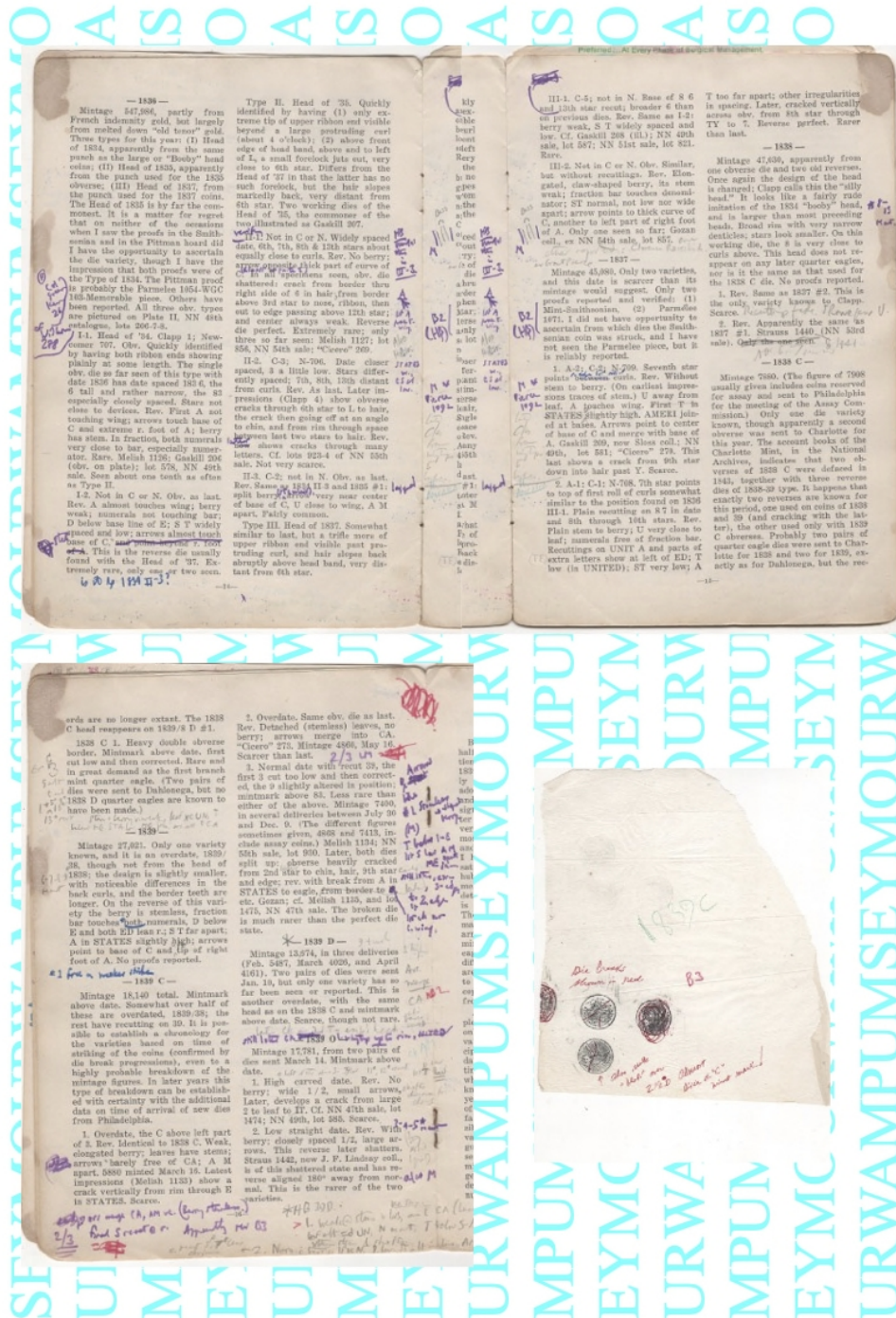
The very first thing to keep in mind, therefore, is that between actual rarity and price the relationship is never as clear-cut as economics textbooks would lead you to believe. Part of the reason is in the nomenclature. Strictly speaking, rare means that only a limited number of collectible specimens exist. The definition is unavoidably vague: how many is "a limited number"? This is partly why Sheldon insisted on making his 8-point rarity scale quantitative, from R-1 "common" to R-8 "unique or nearly unique--not over 3 in collectors' hands." Its automatic limitations: 1) often the actual number extant cannot be known with certainty; 2) dealers using such estimates are under pressure--by their own greed and their consignors'--to exaggerate. Most conspicuously, this occurs when a coin was listed long ago as R-7 ("4 to 12 known") but continues to be so listed after a dozen more have turned up.

This is partly why the so-called law of supply and demand does not work in the coin market. Nor can any attempt to modify its mathematical formulation make it work. Incompleteness and varying delays in diffusion of essential updated information are only part of the reason; there are many ad hoc exceptions in each denomination. Price levels on these vary more with publicity than with actual numbers known. Information that could affect price levels is also often manipulated by those in a position to determine the timing of publicity. The more often you are told that this or that date is rare, the more likely you are to believe it.

WB's Original Monograph.

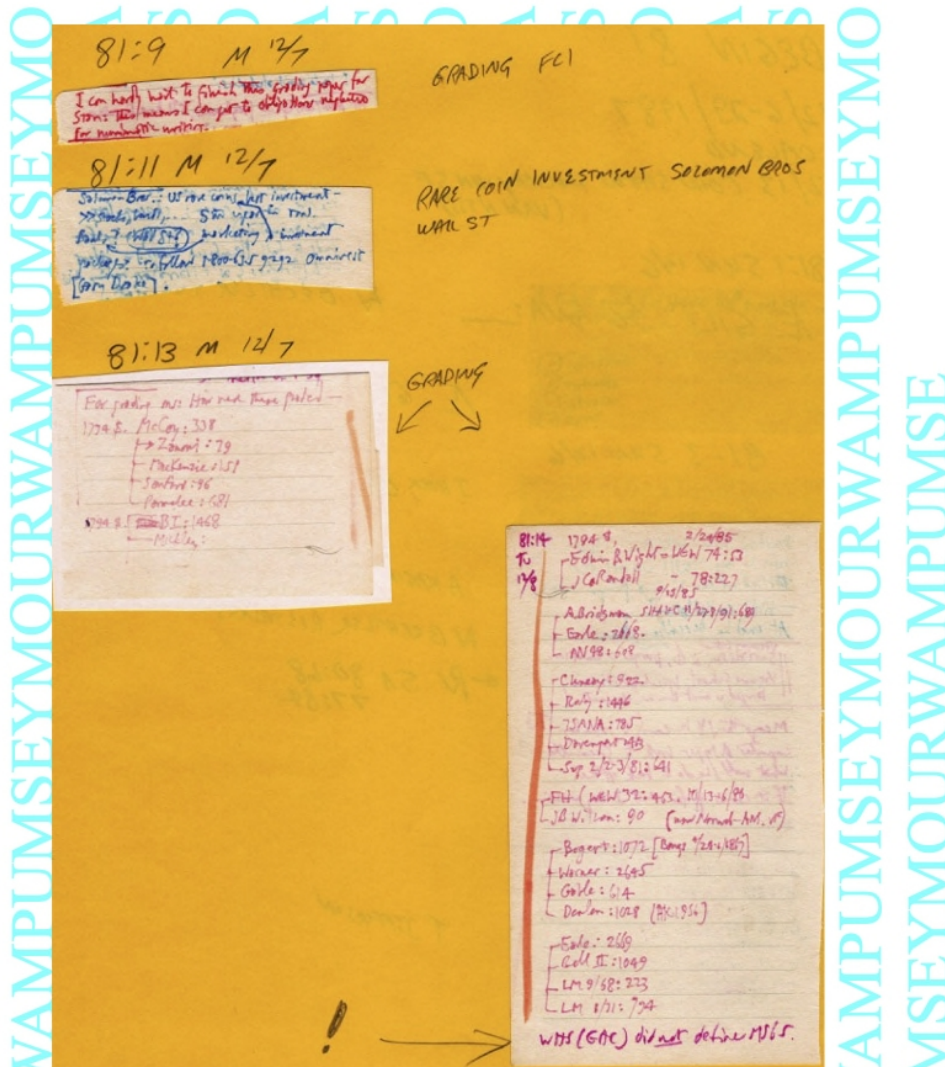
See also Volume #1 QE 1796-1834.





UNITED STATES QUARTER EAGLES

FIRST DESIGN (1796) Capped Liberty Bust r.
NO STARS IN FIELD. Rev. Heraldic eagle has found
on U. S. silver coins 1796-1807, half eagles 1797-
1807, 16 stars above eagle's head. Standard weight
through June 1834, 67.5 grains troy, fineness 11/12
= .916 $\frac{2}{3}$. Diameter approximately 13/16" = 20 to 20.5
mm (variable because struck in open collar). Edge
vertically reeded.



Note book resource material above.

Grading.

Grade range, Good through Uncirculated. Seldom collected in low grades.

Good: Details worn smooth.

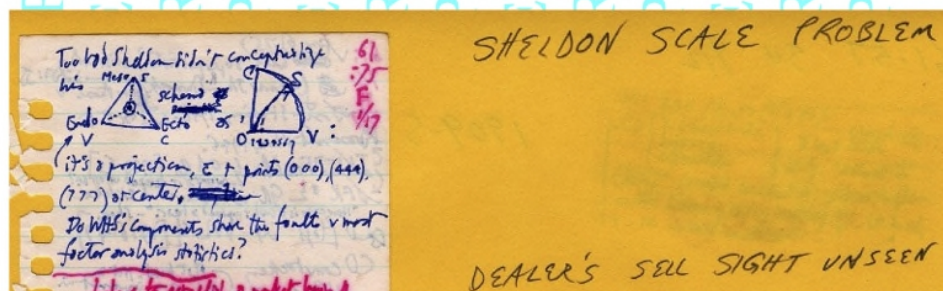
Fine: Ear & all major hair contours visible; partial wing & neck feathers; partial shield lines.

Very Fine: At least half hair & wing-feather details clear; about half azure (nearly horizontal lines in field).

Extremely Fine: Tiny isolated rubbed spots only; partial mint luster.

Uncirculated: No trace of wear. See Glossary: Numerical Grading.

Exceptions: Weakly struck coins, especially from Branch Mints, may not show full azure, adjacent wing feather details, nor hair details above ear even in mint state; grade by surface, look for mint luster on the weak areas. Beware specimens with traces of solder from former use as jewelry: interruption of edge reeding at 12:00 & 6:00 (o'clock), any local porous discoloration, or any traces of hand tooling to efface such treatment.



Sheldon's errant scale.

NB 65:56 I've cat'd coins for > 30 years. t # grad system orig. based on 1794 c, later generalized, now standardized!

Misc note: Ballpark survival rates \$2 1/2 < 1833 varies 1-2% (higher for 1796) 1834 0.3%.

How coins are made, see gold Bibliography Dies and Coinage WB {1965}.

Sixth Design: Aug. 1, 1834-Dec. 31, 1839 "Classic Head".

Somewhat boyish Liberty head, no drapery, hair curly and bound by a fillet inscribed LIBERTY. Rev.: Similar eagle, redrawn, but no motto. Weight 64.5 grains. Diameter 11.5/16" (11/16th")= 18.5 mm. By William Kneass. The head first appeared on John Reich's design for the cents of 1808-14, see [Numisma #1](#), then on the half cents of 1809-36. Motto omitted by order of Mint Director Samuel Moore, to ease the identification of new and old tenor gold. In all dates 1835-39 we see minor modifications of the head.

For several decades, the effect of enormous quantities of Mexican, Peruvian, and other Latin American silver (argent in at least 14 languages; variants exist) reaching world markets had been increasingly to lower the price of silver in terms of gold, or in effect to raise the price & demand for gold bullion (reckoned in Mexican dollars) to a point where U.S. old-tenor gold coins became worth more than face value. During the 1820's and early 30's, most Philadelphia gold coins went to bullion dealers, who promptly shipped them out for melting. National Archives documents (found in early 2000's College Park MD, record group 104) of this period mention mass assays in Europe, in one of which (Paris, 1831) no less than 40,000 U.S. half eagles perished in a single melt. Action was needed, and quickly. The expedient which finally became law was a bill lowering the official weight of the gold Eagle from 270 to 258 grs., and its quality from 11/12 (916.7 Fine) to 232/258 (899.225 Fine), with the Half Eagle and Quarter Eagle in proportion. This became law as the Act of June 28, 1834, effective Aug. 1. Mint Director Samuel Moore correctly anticipated that enormous numbers of old-tenor gold coins (1795-1834) of all kinds would be brought in for recoinage, as the difference in bullion content made enough profit available to induce the public and the bullion dealers to bring the coins to the Mint rather than ship them overseas. In preparation for this flood of recoinage orders, Moore instructed William Kneass to prepare a large surplus of working dies for half eagles and quarter eagles, omitting the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM to enable instant identification: All old-tenor gold coins bore this motto, none of the new ones would show it. See half-eagle 1834-9 for details.

Kneass, for reasons which may have had to do with uniformity of design in all denominations, chose to copy the old John Reich “Classic Head,” first seen on cents 1808-14, see Numisma (#1) 1793-1814 later on half cents 1825-36. His eagle was a somewhat sharpened-up version of one Reich had designed for gold coins in 1807.

Breen took this as more than coincidence that both the half cents and the new gold pieces bore this head rather than any other. Scot had replaced the Reich “Classic Head” on cents in 1816 by the “Matron Head,” probably the ugliest head of Ms. Liberty ever to appear on any U.S. coin. See Numisma (#2) 1816-1857. Though his reason is undocumented, Breen made some plausible guesses. Recall first that Scot had been a bank-note engraver—prior to his Mint employment—in the 1780’s, on this basis of irrelevant skills he received the Mint Engravership, Nov. 1793. During the decades following, he had to learn to make device punches copying others’ designs; but whenever he had to create his own design, the results occupied a narrow range between banality and crudity. Whenever Mint authorities hired an Assistant Engraver, the appointees found themselves professionally hampered, their best designs replaced by Scot’s inferior ones as soon as possible. As early as 1807 Director Patterson regarded as urgent the appointment of an Assistant Engraver to improve on Scot’s designs because Scot’s advancing age made his capacity to do his own work increasingly dubious. For this reason the Treasury approved hiring John Reich, who had been six years vainly knocking on the Mint’s door, despite two successive Directors praising him as the best diesinker in the U.S.. We may assume, then, that when Reich became Assistant Engraver and began creating new coin designs, Scot took this as an insult. This may have been why Reich received no salary increase during 10 years of service; it may also explain why Scot replaced Reich’s half-eagle design in 1813 and his cent design in 1816: professional jealousy. See Numisma 1793-1814 and Numisma 1816-1857. Reich quit the Mint on the 10th anniversary of his appointment, ostensibly because of inadequate pay; but these personal rebuffs almost certainly loomed large in his decision, especially considering why Reich had been hired in the first place. After Scot died in 1823, the next half-cents to be issued bore not any new design (which they might have), but Reich’s old “Classic Head” portrait.

So this androgynous effigy was honored in 1834 by Kneass’ choosing it for the new quarter eagles and half eagles. The flood of gold deposits anticipated by Director Moore began that summer and increased during the next two years; issues of quarter eagles (began officially Aug. 1) exceeded all

expectations. From then through 1839, more than 910,000 came from Philadelphia bearing this design, plus some 57,475 from newly built Southern branches at Charlotte, NC., Dahlonega, GA., and New Orleans, LA., all with mintmark above date (1838-39). The Philadelphia total for 1834-6 alone is over 10 times the total old-tenor Quarter-Eagle coinage.

With such large mintage numbers, one would expect the coins to be relatively common. And in ordinary grades they are always available for a price; but any “Classic Head” gold coin in mint state is a rarity. These coins went into circulation at once and stayed there, few being saved as souvenirs. Even the hoards discovered after W W II yielded virtually none in mint state.

Several design modifications followed:

1834 come with two entirely different heads. 1) “Small Head” is instantly recognizable by the date’s distance from lowest curls. 2) “Booby Head” (by John H. Clapp before 1942), has 4 almost touching curl; its effigy is no credit to Reich or Kneass: thick lips, jaw jutting forward, eye very deeply set.

1835 show a taller head with narrower bust, upper ribbon end almost concealed by a curl.

In 1835, Kneass suffered a stroke, and Christian Gobrecht made later dies. Presumably the 1836’s with Head of 1834 & Head of 1835 were from dies completed earlier but with final digit omitted, whereas the Head of 1837 in Gobrecht’s own modification. On this last, hair above brow slopes far back, very distant from sixth star. In 1838 Gobrecht replaced this head by a still cruder one imitating the “Booby Head,” but larger with tiny stars; nor was his new version of 1839 any improvement.

However, with the adoption on 1839 of the new Coronet Head concept—extended to Quarter Eagles in 1840—Gobrecht was to standardize the design: 67 years of stereotypy would follow five years of experiment.

NB 73:82 1/2 Dime [which sale?] 1795 Newlin 7 (rev. ’94). ‘Prac U.’ ex Steigerwalt, ex Newlin, ex Europe, discovery coin? Grandberg: 424: (Mehl 7/16/19) \$26..426[...]... ibid:577 calls an 1834 \$2 1/2 ‘So-called “Classic” Head.’

From the same dies as the proofs.

16TH CONG. LOTENS SENT SAT 2548
SECRET ROOM DTD (2/2/33) RESPONSE
TO CARPENTERS (see VJ)
1834

While the Act of June 28, 1834, which reduced the weight of the gold coins from 67.5 grains to 64.5 grains, and modified the composition of standard gold by increasing the percentage of the alloy, was being prepared, the Director of the Mint, Samuel Moore, made a report to the Speaker of the House on January 11, 1833, regarding the proper alloy of gold to be used for gold coins. He apparently hoped to have a clause inserted in the bill authorizing the addition of some silver to the copper used as the alloy in the standard gold, in order to improve the color of the gold coins. He pointed out that experiments had established that a "gold coin alloyed with about one-twelfth of its weight of silver and copper combined resists the effects of attrition, at least as effectually as any other proportion, and that an alloy slightly greater or less is not sensibly inferior in this respect. For the purpose of exhibiting the degree of approximation of the color of fine gold produced by various proportions of silver and copper employed as an alloy of gold coin, a number of specimens of the quarter eagle are forwarded with the report, to which the House is respectfully referred. (The numbers are designated by minute points impressed on the reverse of each coin above the head of the eagle.)

"No. 1 consists of 61 7/8 grains of pure gold, being the quantity at present required in the quarter eagle.

"No. 2 contains 61 7/8 grains of pure gold and 5 1/2 grains of alloy, making 67 1/2 grains, the weight of a quarter eagle of our present standard. The alloy in this specimen consists of silver alone.

"No. 3 is of the same weight and fineness as No. 2, but alloyed with silver and copper in equal proportions.

"No. 4 is of the same weight and fineness as the preceding, but alloyed wholly with copper.

"No. 5 weighs 66 grains, of which 59.4 consist of pure gold and 6.6 grains of

19 BETER

#506 RETOWED

CONFORM TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO 26 1/2 GR
(EAGLE) 237.6 GR 26.4 ALLOY

1834 Continued

alloy, which alloy consists of silver and copper in equal proportions.

"No. 6 is of the same weight and fineness as the preceding, but alloyed with silver and copper in the proportion of one part of the former to two parts of the latter.

"The first four specimens are of the intrinsic value of our present quarter eagle. The fifth and sixth are conformable to the coinage in which the eagle would contain 264 grains of standard gold, consisting of 237.6 grains of pure gold and 26.4 grains of alloy."

Apparently all of these were melted as none are known to exist today.

QUARTER DOLLAR. Regular dies trial piece.

50. Copper—R.E. R.8. Two known.

HALF EAGLE. Regular dies trial piece without E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse.

51. Copper—P.E. (A-W 40) R.8.

51a. Copper—R.E. R.8.

Judd 3rd 1834.

Breen's annotated Judd 3rd edition.

1834 No Motto Introduction.

SIXTH DESIGN (1834-Aug. 1, 1834 -- Dec. 31, 1839).

"Classic Head." Somewhat boyish Liberty head, no drapery, hair curly and bound by a fillet inscribed LIBERTY. Rev. Similar eagle, redrawn, but no motto. Weight 64.5 grains. Diameter 11.5/16" = 18.5 mm. ^{By William Kneass.} The head first appeared on John Reich's designs for the cents of 1808-14, then on the half cents of 1809-36 (see below). Motto omitted by order of Mint Director Samuel Moore, to ease identification of new and old tenor gold. In all dates 1835-39 we see minor modifications of the head.

\$2.50 1834 No Motto 132:

like not others!
The new design, ^{ed conceptions} by William Kneass, merely adapted ~~from~~ earlier in use. I revived the sterna "Classic Head" for the type on cents and half cents, after having found it briefly so called in a coin publication about 1808 (I think it was Ebenezer Locke Mason's coinage, in his Coin and Stamp Journal, but have misplaced the reference). The peculiarity about it is that ~~its~~ ^{the} profile is decidedly masculine, apparently copied from a Greek statue; and the hairdo is precisely that which is commonly found on statues and vase paintings of Greek boy athletes; and the fillet was a kind of badge of honor most often worn as a prize ~~by~~ ^{by} whichever boy had won it at town-wide games. It was not worn by women.

Treasury Secretary Levi Woodbury's ~~was~~ original proposal for distinguishing the new ~~tenor~~ ^{or} 64.5-grain coins from the older and more valuable ones was to have the new issue bear the legend AUG. 1, 1834 on reverse. Note that when Christoph Bechtler (Rutherfordton, N.C.) began issuing his own gold ~~coins~~ ^{at} a similar weight and fineness at the same period, he actually did add this date to the dies. Note the following letter from Mint Director Moore to Woodbury, July 9, 1834, preserved in the Archives:

...In regard to your suggestion of affixing to the gold coined after the 31st inst., the date of the month, to designate the new coins from others of the current year, I have respectfully to ~~unhappy~~ ^{unhappy} observe: that for such designation, the engraver has been ordered to execute new dies, omitting the motto...and substituting a new head of Liberty without the dress-cap,--the hair being only restrained by the cincture inscribed LIBERTY. The above motto has no authority in law or good taste, as the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA expresses the same fact. It is not known at whose instance it was introduced; our earliest coins lack it. It has long been felt as an incumbrance. . .

We know, today, that the motto derives from the Great Seal of the United States, and that its use by order of Mint Director Boudinot in and after 1796--apparently on the occasion of new

\$2.50 1834 No motto :33:

designs on Tennessee's admission to the Union--was not on any written authorization from higher up; but then, coin designs were discretionary with the Director. However, objection in some quarters to the disappearance of the motto did ensue, and Woodbury complained to the Mint Director, receiving the following seemingly humble reply:

Mint of the United States
Philada., Nov. 20, 1834

Sir:

I have respectfully to remark in reply to your letter of the 17th that no measure will be taken which will impede the restoration of the Motto on our coins, without careful advisement on the subject at Washington, after the Meeting of Congress.

I am very respectfully
Your obedt servt
Saml. Moore

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of Treasury
Washington City

Since no pattern dies are known to have been made for gold coins of later date in this decade showing the old motto, and no further mention of the motto occurs in Mint correspondence, one gathers that Director Moore did indeed go to Washington and give the authorities "careful advisement."

Quarter eagles and half eagles of the new tenor during the next couple of years (\$1,069,000 in 1834, \$160,000 in 1835, and smaller amounts afterwards) ~~unmanned~~ were largely made from gold bullion sent in by banks and individuals who had made it by melting down old tenor gold. (The remainder, through about 1839, was "French Indemnity" gold, representing a personal triumph for President Jackson.

They were first released on August 1, the effective date of the Mint Act. A letter of Director Moore to Secretary Woodbury, no. 15, MINT / LETTERS 1834-36, in the Archives, of that date, enclosed a few proofs of the new issue for him and the President:

"To Mr. Kneass...it is due to say, that it has required the utmost attention on his part to accomplish a pair of New dies for the

\$2.50 1834 No motto :34:

goldcoinage, within the past Month, in addition to the usual [quantity? illegible] of dies for the silver coinage, which it is necessary to maintain."

1834 No Motto



1 3 3 4 No Motto

[112,234]

Two slightly different hubs, the first represented by only one working die, ~~the~~ commonly known as the "Small Head," with date well away from it. The second, called the "Bosby Head" by John H. Clapp, continued into 1836, though it is again represented by only one working die dated 1834. Each die comes muled with several different reverses. Uncirculated specimens, well struck in centers, are rare for either type, though less so than for 1835-37; ~~some~~ some were saved as the first of the new design, but no such incentive existed in later years.

E1

Old II-1
A-4, C-2, N=700

Obv. "Small head." ~~Outline of curls~~ Outlines of curls atop head less pronounced than on the other obv. type; the roll of curls at back of head above the ribbon forms an almost unbroken straight line; date low, distant from lowest curls.

Rev. Heavy arrows, touching A and almost touching C; A almost or quite touches wing ^{ME} join at base. First S and second T in STATES a trifle low. *2nd white stripe controls*.

Die States. I: Recutting shows at bases of E in STATES, O in OF and some other letters. Proofs only (see below). Occasionally with a few microscopic to minute rust spots.

II: Recuttings no longer visible. ME no longer join quite *so firmly* and on some examples ^{if III} they do not quite touch. Arrow point *now seems* to run into final A.

III: Crack from wing tip to r. border.

Proof.



\$2.50 1834 No Motto :35:

Business strikes R-4 low. States II, III only. The least rare of the varieties of this design. (See accounts in the NN 48th, 49th (lot 576), 51st (lot 820), 52nd or Landau sale ex Marshall Gaskill; Melish 1121 was from these dies.) Occasional first strikes ^{are} sometimes deceptive enough to have been sold as hairmarked or nicked proofs. The real proofs are all from State I.

Proofs: There may be as many as a dozen, some of them now showing hairmarks or nicks. Among them these are traced:

1. Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet Collection.
2. King of Siam proof set, still in original presentation case.
3. N.Y. state private coll., ex Parmelee 1033, Woodin 950 (1911), Bement 227, Waldo Newcomer, Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, various dealer intermediaries, "Memorable" 95, Jerome Kern 23, Thomas L. Gaskill, NN 48th sale, lot 202. (There claimed erroneously as by John J. Ford to be unique, over my protests.)
4. Eliasberg, ex John H. Clapp, possibly D.S. Wilson 177 or Wilharm 71.
5. WGC 101, ex F.C.C. Boyd. Impaired.
6. "Cicero" 266. Impaired, now EF.

At least two other impaired specimens are known; at least one other choice example has been seen.

B2

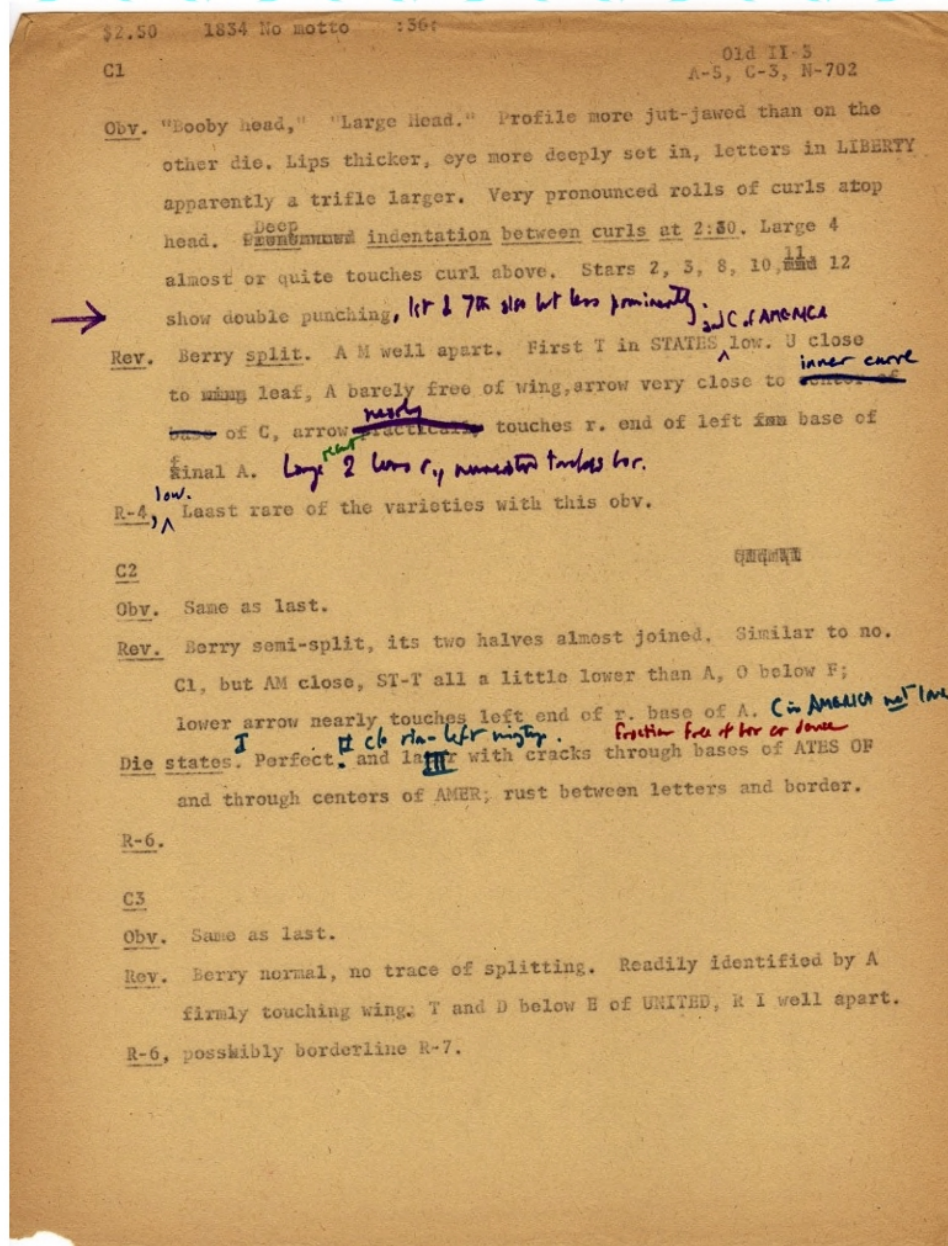
Old II-2
Not in A or C; N-703.

Obv. Same as B1.

Rev. Small arrows, one of them near center of base of final A but not touching it.

R-6. I have not seen one in mint state. *Apparently discovered by Waldo Newcomer.*

Proof #3 Bement:277 is H.Chapman sale 5/29/1916. [See also P bk. ms.].
 Personal communication to WB from ? : 16, Nov. 1966: David S. Wilson,
 Esq. Mar 13 & 14, 1907 S.H. Chapman \$2 1/2: 1834 Brill. Pf. (lot 177) new
 type, no motto.
 HB 2B (repunching gone).
Proof #6 "Cicero" was NN 55:266 (penned by Breen).





“Booby Head.” 6 rev. varieties.



Small arrowheads. Lowest point near upper base center A. Small Head obv.,
Ex-rare. HB lacks.

25 1834 NM 27:

C4 Old II-5
A-6, C-5, not in N

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. Leaf near N rather than U; berry normal but stemless and nearer to leaf than usual. This die reused in 1835.

R-5 high.

C5

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. ^{leaf} ~~Leaf~~ very close to U; A free of wing; arrow very close to left foot of r. base of A; berry normal with stem; all letters spaced. ST high, O below F. Third stroke of M gone (chipped off punch), as in C6 and none of foregoing.

R-6 high, possibly R-7.

C6 Old II-4
A-3, C-4, N-701

Obv. Same as last.

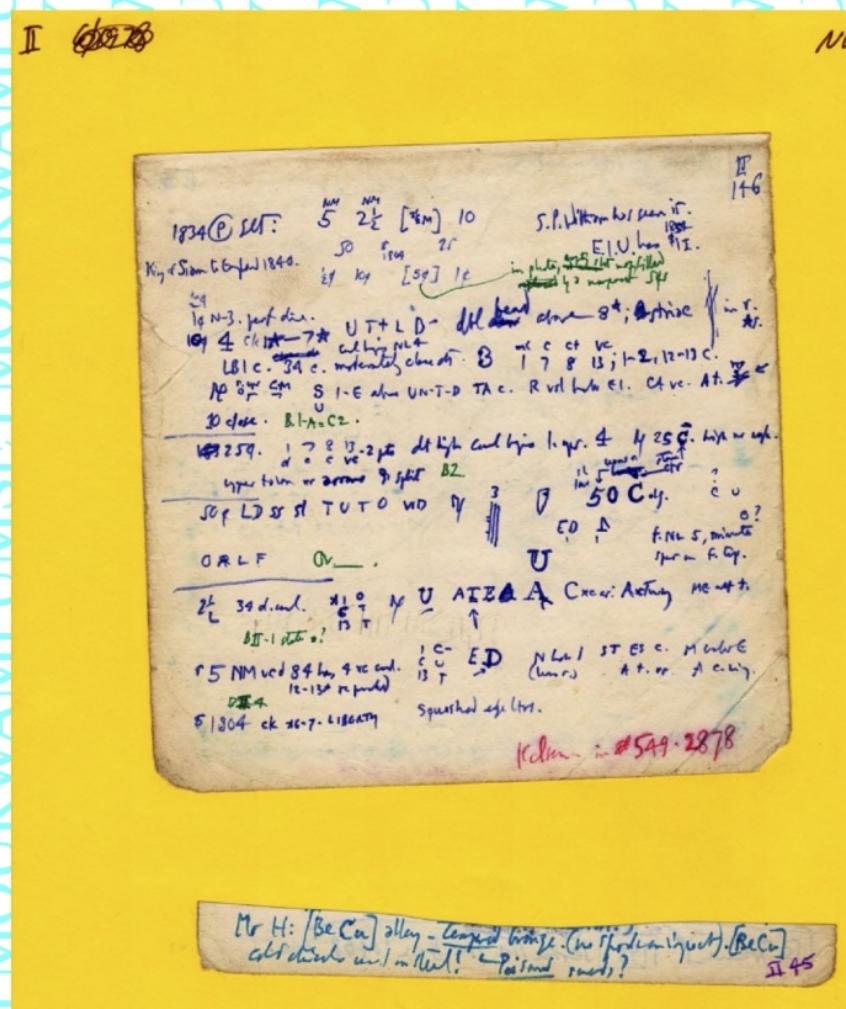
Rev. U well away from leaf, CA well away from arrows. Normal berry with stem. Third stroke of M gone. Recuttings show on bases of OF and E C in AMERICA. Double impression on middle leaf pair.

Die states. I: Recuttings plain. II: Recuttings fade out.

R-6 low. Die reused in 1835.

B-2C "...not in original monograph..." See detailed description in Bib. below WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1801.

NB 2:146.



NB 70:128.

: Misc. catalogs. Source.

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RitA Letter 1834 Proof Set, below.

Department of State —
Washington, Nov^r 11th 1834.

Sir, / The President has directed that a complete set of coins of U.S. be sent to the King, Sicily, & others to the Sultan & Muscat. You are requested, ... to forward to the Department, for that purpose, duplicate specimens of each kind now in use, whether N, A, or E. — As far as in us they are the contents, may be well better & more appropriately made at Philadelphia, if your direction, than they could be here, it is desired to procure them, if it will not be too much trouble, & have them suitably arranged in them before they are sent on. They to be as small as size as is consistent wth purpose for which they are intended; & to be a wood, covered of plain surface. The color of one to be yellow, & of other crimson — You are authorized to draw upon the Department for the value of coins, & the expense of boxes —

I & I have to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obed^t Serv^t
John Forsyth

PCA III “Beck” 2/14/1977:95 No Motto “Uncirculated-55” Plate \$750.00.
See Bibliography Catalog of Auctions.

“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1006 “[...]No Motto[...]small head[...]A perfect brilliant proof[...].” \$26.00.

BMM 3/23/48:3489, \$12.00.

OC NN 1952 ANA:573 “New type, no motto over eagle. Ex. Fine. Brilliant, apparently struck as a proof.” \$12.00. See Bib. below. —:1470.

Stack’s 3/6-7/1959:303 ‘PL’ see Important Catalogues below.

See Hoards below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below. **Proof.**

See WB’s annotated G.E.N.A. P.T.A 11/1975 in Bibliography below.

WB’s copy, in Bib. P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:568 ‘BUch’ described die varieties in detail; —:569 ‘EFpl’ B.B-1.—:570 “Large Head” ‘BU-’ “Booby Head” close

1835



O A I S O A I S O

1835

[151,402 reported]

It is believed that some part of the reported mintage consisted of coins dated 1834. Three of the four reverse dies used for quarter eagles of this year were dies of 1834, and the date is so very much scarcer than 1834 (even allowing for a few dozen 1834's saved as first of their kind) as to leave no reasonable alternative.

A still different head punch was used on this year and part of 1836.

1835

:58:

1

Old 1
A-1, C-1, N-704

Obv. Only the one die. Taller head, 13th star closer to hair than in large head.

1834/ Upper ribbon end almost concealed by a curl. End of bust much narrower than on 1834 large head.

Rev. Split berry; U close to leaf; *and left down* A M apart. Die of 1834 C1.

Die states. [Perfect. W. Raymond, but (Lester) obtained, from Raymond, etc. July 1711]

R-4. Extremely rare in full mint state, not so hard to find in VF or EF.

Usually rather flat in centers.

Proofs. The following are traced:

1. Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet Collection.
2. Davis-Graves 685.
3. "Memorable" 96, ex Parmelee 1046, Mills 549, Woodin 954, F.C.C. Newcomer),
Boyd (probably via Wayte Raymond) WGC 102.
- 4, 5. Two others reported by Wayte Raymond, not now located.

2

Old 2
A-2, C-2, N-705

Obv. *Same as last.

Rev. Perfect berry, U away from leaf, arrows away from CA, broken M (third stroke gone), ^{middle} ~~W~~ leaf pair shows doubling. Die of 1834 C6.

Die states.

Perfect, and sometimes with rust on shield and eagle's leg.

Low R-5. Same comment as to no. 1.

3

Old 3
A-3, C-3, not in N

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. Stemless berry; ~~in~~ leaf near M. Die of 1834 C4.

High R-6. Same comment as to no. 1.

4

Old 4

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. No berry. Arrow almost ~~touches~~ touches thick part of curve of C,

URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSE

:39:

lower arrow touches between bases of A, first A practically touches wing; STATES well spaced apart, ES minutely low. Struck between 1836 B1 and C1.

Die states. The perfect die is found on 1836 B1; the specimen with this 1835 date shows faint cracks from left wing to S and through bases of ATEs. Later cracked states were found on 1836 B2.

Probably high R-7. Only the one specimen examined.

Proofs: reported by Wyate Raymond (4, 5): one is Earle, Clapp, Eliasberg:102, \$30,800. #3 **Proof** above ms. is S.H. & H. Chapman 4/27-9/1904:549 John G. Mills Esq.. [See also P bk. ms.].

A M apart.



Reverse 1, split berry, U close to leaf....Proof-like Unc.

HB 1834C, 1834D: 1835 preceded 1834 with same reverse.

HB Proof: 1-C no berry, obv. slightly lapped.

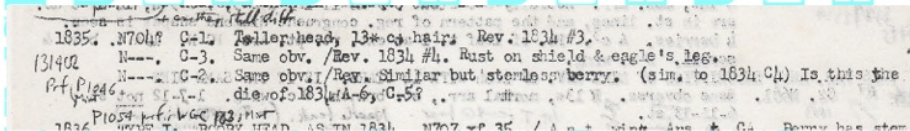
See 1834 "Classic Heads" last 4 paragraphs above for design modification.

One of the 'reported' proofs (W.Raymond) above was Melish:1124, it turned out to be a first strike.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below. **Artyfact.** WB.

See WB's annotated G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 in Bib. below.

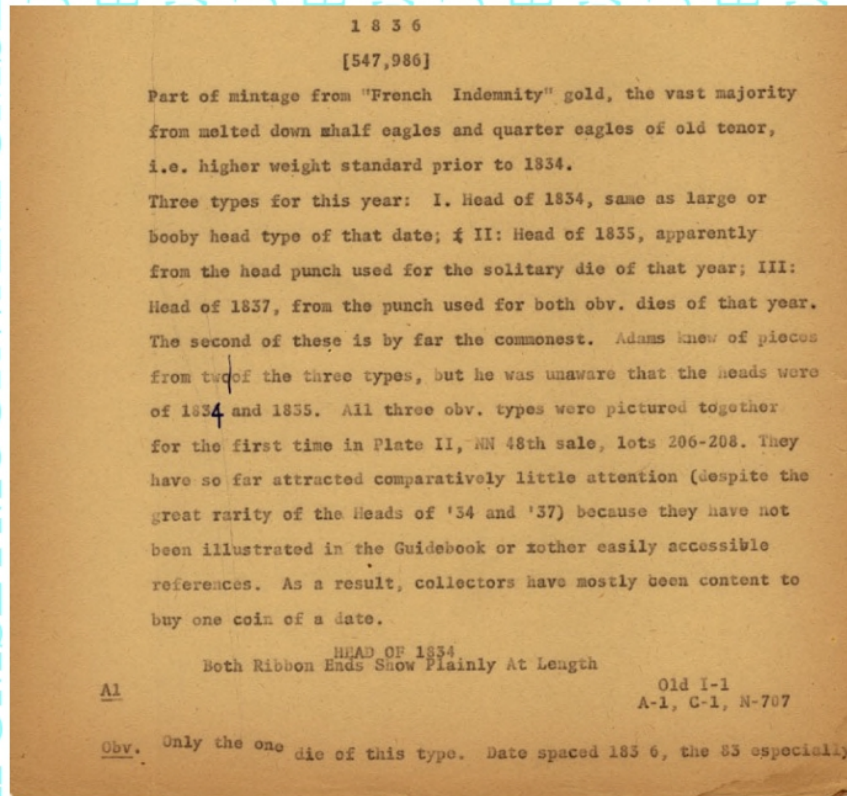
P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:573 B-3 'VF' die described in Bib. below.
Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.



This above B&W copy is superior to original color scan.

1836

Steam powered presses began employment in Mint, striking 1/2 dollars.



III. is AU. A3 Head of 1834; rev. C.

Proof. Head of 1837.



close, the 6 tall and rather narrow. Stars not close to device.

Rev. A. First A free of wing; arrows touch base of C and r. tip of r. foot of A; berry has stem.. In fraction, both numerals very close to ~~numerals~~ ^{bar especially} numerator.

P-5 high. Seen about one tenth as often as the commonest of the Head of '35 coins; nevertheless, the least rare of the Heads of '34. Cf. Melish 1126, Gaskill--NN 48th, lot 206 (obv. on plate); NN 49th, lot 578.

Proofs only. The following are traced:

1. Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet Coll.
2. N.Y. state private coll., ex Parmelee 1053, H.P. Smith, Mills 530, Woodin 956, F.C.C. Boyd, WGC 103, "Memorable" 97.
- 3, 4. Specimens known to Wayte Raymond, not now ~~located~~.

A2 Old I-2
will Not in A, C or N

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. C. Berry weak. A almost touches wing. D below base line of B; S T widely spaced and low; arrows ^{near center of base} ~~almost touch base~~ of C and ^{just r.} ~~point~~ of left tip of r. foot of A. Reused with the Head of '37.

R-7. I have seen only six, none of them anywhere near mint state. Gilman 120. JC 73.

Photos of most varieties are not available, damaged.
Ms. (2nd edition) above.

add to proof coins book

1836 \$2½. B.B3 (formerly II-3). Head of '35, 3 below base arc line of 8-6. Rev. Split berry in field; A M far apart; 3rd leaf from bottom now clawlike. Obv. die partly caved in; both dies thoroughly repolished, rev. border beads about 4:00 to 9:00 now far apart, those around 7:00 attenuated, one opposite middle leaf pair detached and microscopic fragment. 8/76.
One seen, in possession of Stone House Coin Shop, / Minute lamination defect in field SW of 10*; tiny bulges--gas bubbles in planchet?-- left of 1 and NW of 6.

Ms. (3rd edition?) nearly illegible due to flood #2 (but light table, magnified & a little chemistry): Head of 1834, long ribbon ends. *Breen A2 (not in original monograph): only one obv. of type, arrows well away from CA, large leaves. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Parmelee:1055, H.P.Smith, Mills:530, Woodin:956 plate, Boyd, WGC:103, "Memorable":97. Update: This coin went to Clapp, then Eliasberg WB noted it turned out to be a Head of 1837, B. III-1 (Clapp 5). (3) Col. Green, Kern:26. Wyate Raymond knew four.

— Head of 1835, Breen B3 (formerly II-3) Only tip of upper ribbon visible; tiny forelock near 6th star; 3 below bases of 8-6. Reverse: Split berry in field (stemless), A M far apart, 3rd leaf from bottom clawlike. Obverse die partly caved in; rev. border beads 4:00 to 9:00 far apart, attenuated around 7:00, one opposite middle leaf pair detached and microscopic. One seen, ex Stone house Coin Shop; tiny lamination defect in field southwest of 10th star.

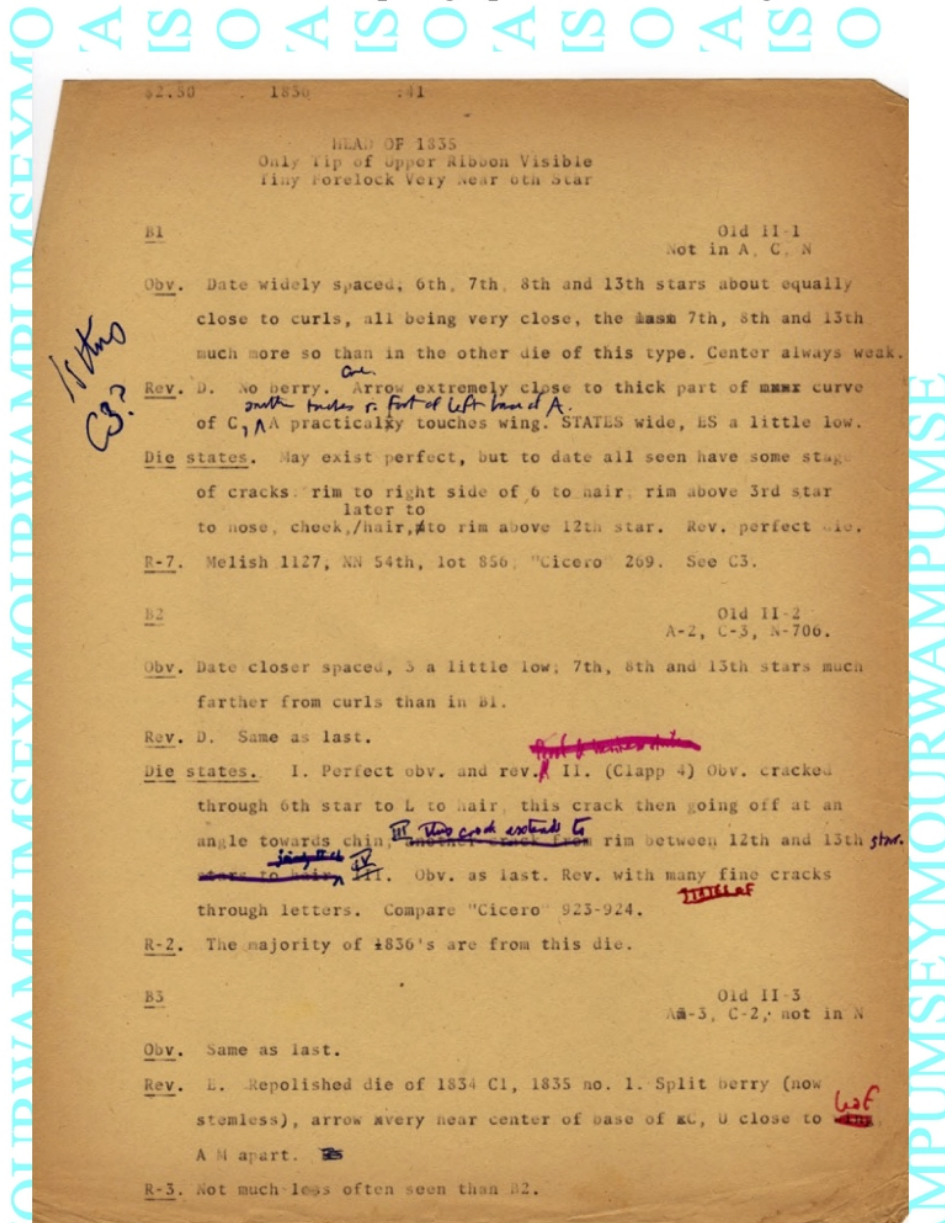
—Head of 1835 Later crack stars 6-12; still later crack shield. HB 2D No berry. 2-1834C stemless, split berry, heavily lapped. 2B split berry, crumbling on shield.

Proof, head of 1837. Breen III-1, C-5. Illustrated above.

Three proofs are known.

Proof: 1) Lorin G. Parmelee 1890, Harlan P. Smith, John G. Mills 1904, William H. Woodin 1911, John H. Clapp. 1942

See 1834 "Classic Heads" last 4 paragraphs above for design modification.



B-II-2 described in detail WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1803 —:1804 in Bib..

B-III-2 described in Bib. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1805.

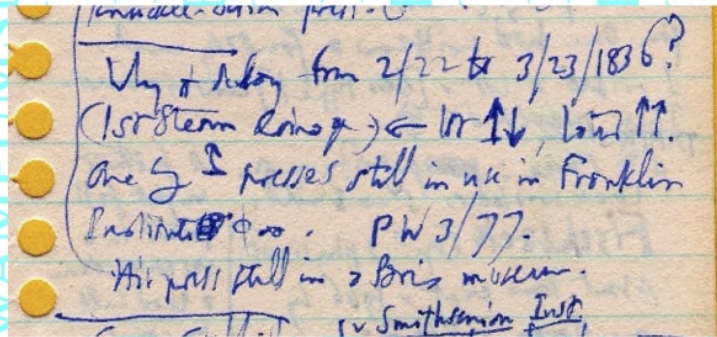
B-III (B-C3) described in Bib. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1806, ".not in original monograph. ...".

\$2.50 1836 :42:
HEAD OF 1837
Hair Slopes Back, Far From 6th Star. By *Christina Gebrecht,*
after Knorr.
C1 Old III-1
NN A-4, C-5, not in N
Obv. Somewhat similar to the Head of '35, but a little more of upper ribbon end shows past protruding curl; most easily spotted by hair sloping back abruptly above headband, very distant from 6th star. In this die, but neither C2 nor C3, 13th star and bases of 8 6 show double punching; 6 is broader than on any of preceding.
Rev. C. Same as MM variety A3: berry weak, S T widely spaced and low. ~~arrows almost touch base of 6 and point beyond it~~
High R-5, possibly borderline R-6. Cf. Gaskill, NN 48th, lot 206 ~~111~~ (obv. illustrated); NN 49th, lot 587; NN 51st, lot 821.
C2 Old III-2
Not in A, C, N
Obv. Similar but no double punching on star, 8 or 6.
Rev. F. Elongated claw-shaped berry, its stem weak, *low wings* fraction bar touches denominator; ST normal (not low nor too widely spaced); one arrow points to thick part of curve of C, another to left part of right foot of A.
E the F-D
R6 ~~borderline R-2~~ Gozan coll., ex NN 54th, lot 5857; C. Rareshide, ex Grant Pierce 1091; five others traced to date.
C3
Obv. Similar to C2. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
Rev. D. Same as variety B1. No berry; arrow extremely close to thick part of curve of C; ~~2a~~ A practically touches wing; STATES wide, ES a little low.
Die states. Obv. cracked somewhat similarly to B1--rim to 6 to hair, rim ~~xxxxxx~~ above 3rd star to nose, rim between 11th and 12th stars to curl. Rev. Perfect die, apparently. *low, ok rim to 6th star. base of*
High R-7. Discovered by Harry Bass. May be confused with B1. *After of*

Proof #2 above ms. is John G. Mills Esq. S.H.& H. Chapman 4/27-9/1904:550, ex. Parmelee:1055.

In personal communication 11/1966 to WB from ? : "[...]1836 (lot 956, plated) [Woodin Elder] Uneven date, crooked 6, lg. leaves, arrows not touching lettering. WB wrote in pencil framing leaves[...]not "WHICH VAR?" [This letter contains cat. searches for WB.]

P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:574 B-B2 'VF' die described in Bib. below; —:575 B-C2 'AU' die described.



NB 66:75 above. Why the delay from 2/22 to 3/23/1836? 1st steam coinage[...].

OC NN 1952 ANA:574. "Just about Uncirculated. Lustrous, and with a broken obverse die." \$12.00. See Bib. below. —:1471.

PCA III 2/14/77:96 [3 pcs] \$375.00 "Very Fine-35"; tiny edge nick below 6 in date[...] —:"Very Fine-35[...] —:[...]dated 1838[...]Very Fine-30[...]. See Hoards below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below. **Annotations.** WB.

For additional information on **Proofs** see original ms. in Bibliography below. See WB's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 below.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1836. TYPE I: BOOBY HEAD, AS IN 1834. N707 x1 35. / A n.t. wing. Ars. 6. Ga. Berry has stem.
547986 N--- C-1. 2 x2 bar, the 1 possibly xct. C-1. Rev. 1834 #3.
N706. C-2. As 1835 #1. 13* vc. 6th vc cap. Rev. 1834 #3.
C-3. Same obv. Rev. 13* bar, 2 in. t. Ars. xct P. 8. (Ga. 1834 #3)
C-4. is the same thing, with die break 6* to band.
N--- C-5. Similar, but 6* d. head. Base 8 6 and 13* recut. / A xct wing, berry weak.
Hand of 1837. 1/2 n.t. bar. S 7 wide and low. D below E. MER. 9. Ga. 1834 #3.
1837. C-1. Similar to 1836 #5. 7* top 1st curl. 87 recut, also 8-2-10.

This above B&W copy is superior to original color scan.

1837

\$2.50 1837 :43:

1 8 3 7

[45,080]

Much rarer than its mintage would suggest; some part of the 45,080 may have borne date 1836. Prohibitively rare munc.

1

Old 1
A-2, C-2, N-709

Obv. Without repunchings on date or stars. Seventh star points almost between two adjacent curls, *usually to right of first roll.*

Rev. Usually without stem to berry (earliest impressions show faint traces of stem). U away from leaf; A touches wing; first T in STATES very slightly high; AMERI joined at bases. One arrow *nearly touches* center of base of C, the other merges with ^{r.} base of A.

Die states. I. Traces of stem to berry: rare. II. No stem to berry (usual). III. Light cracks from ^{for r, then with} wingtips to borders. IV. Crack from 9th star down into hair past Y: "Cicero" 270, *silhouette 121.*

R-4. Gaskill, NN 48th, lot 209, Sloss; NN 49th, lot 581, Grant Pierce 1092.

2

Old 2
A-1, C-1, N-708

Obv. Plain double punching on 8 7 in date and 8th through 10th stars. Seventh star points to top of first roll of curls, somewhat as in 1836 C1.

Rev. Plain stem to berry; U very close to leaf; numerals free of bar; ST very low, A T too far apart, other irregularities in spacing. Parts of extra letters show at left of ED; recuttings on UNIT and A of STATES.

Die states. Later, vertical crack from 8th star through TY to 7 and rim.

R-5 high, possibly R-6.

Proofs. The following are ~~munc~~ traced:

1. Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet Coll.

\$2.50 1837-8 :44:

2. Mills 552, ex Parmelee 1071.

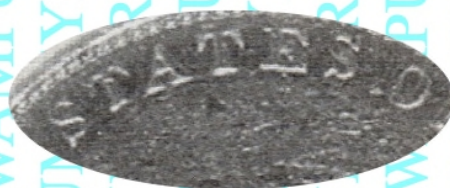
3. A specimen reported by Wayne Raymond before 1951.

One of the two preceding is probably the piece reported by Harry Bass.

Proof.



Business strike obverse star position. Obv. 1.



Business strike reverse 1 first T very slightly high[...].

Proof #2 above ms. is John G. Mills Esq. S.H.&H. Chapman 4/27-9/1904:552. B-1 described in detail G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1806A see Bib. below. WR knew of three.

See 1834 "Classic Heads" last 4 paragraphs above for design modification.

HB 3C Jagged berry. +1 Proof. 4D no berry, crack top of shield. HB 1-A stars 8, 9, 10 repunched; crack star 8 to rim. Rev. stem to berry. ODD [1] 2 denom.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:105 'Curl directly over 7. F.'

Compare Harry Bass Collection below. **Proof.** WB.

See original ms. in Bibliography below for additional information.

1837. C-1. Similar, but br d. head base o o and 1st recut. / A x c. wing, belt weak.
Head 1837. 1/8 nat. bar. S r. wide and low. D below E. MER. e. Ca. 10.
1837. C-1. Similar to 1836 45. 7w to top 1st curl. 87 recut, also C-2-10.
Vert. sk. 8w - 11-7 in date. Rev. Stem to berry. U v. leaf above. 1/2 free. GAM
UNIT recut. 1 E D. sh. l. low. Rl. xp. 1 s. low. SR very low. A f.w. OF c. N.C.Ve
first C-2. Same type. 7w between curls. / A t. wing. No stem. U d. leaf. Ca. (M. 4).
Pigment 1837. 1. Head sim. to 1836; SILLY HEAD. SL. larger hd. Narrow short dents; gms 13er. as. 8 vc.

ove B&W copy is superior to original color scan.

1838

III. is AU; 1.



Proofs may exist, as all other denominations are known for this year.

1 8 3 8
[47,030]

1838 Head. Rude imitation of 1834 "booby" head, larger than any of preceding, stars smaller. Not used on any later coin. *By Gebrecht (after Kneass), on an off day.*

Old 1
A-1, C-1, N-710.

1
ascends to right,
Obv. Date ~~high~~, 8 very close to curl. *R* unusually broad and flat with very narrow short ~~adentils~~. Double punching on ^{5th} 7th through 13th stars.

Rev. Same as 1837 no. 2. (Plain stem to berry, U very near leaf, ST low, A T apart.)

Die states. I. Recuttings on UNIT A, parts of extra letters on ED, as in 1837. II. Recuttings ~~no~~ longer visible, either die lapped or worn down.

R-4. But prohibitively rare in mint state. John Rowe showed me a gem in state II--apparently unmatched. *Gilman 122 is very nearly full unc.*

Old 2

2
Obv. Same as last.

Rev. Same as 1837 no. 1. (No stem to berry, U away from leaf, etc.)

R=7 low. About 6 ~~or~~ 7 traced to date. The discovery specimen was lot 1440, NN 53rd sale (Philip Straus estate).

HB 1-1837A later lapped.
See 1834 "Classic Heads" last 4 paragraphs above for design modification.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See original ms. in Bibliography below for additional information.
P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:576 B-1 'AU' die described in Bib. below; —:577 B-1
'AU'; —:578 'EF/AU' B-1.

Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

1838.1. Head sim. to 1836; SILLY HEAD. Sl. larger hd. Narrow short dents; smaller es. 8 vc.
47630 curls. Rev. 1837 #1. *another 2 different 1838-1840-1841-1842 (see 1838-1840)*
Note--1838 C has the head of 1839. Rev. C. has curls. as 1839. *1838-1840-1841-1842 (see 1838-1840)*
1839.1. Similar to 1838, but slightly smaller head. Differences in back curls. Long dents.
1838-1840-1841-1842 (see 1838-1840)

This above B&W copy is superior to original color scan.

1838 C



2.50 1838C .45:
1838 C
[7,880]

Mintage usually given as 7,908, but this amount includes coins reserved for assay and shipped to the Philadelphia Mint in Jan. 1839 for the meeting of the Assay Commission. Two pairs of dates of shipment unknown; dies shipped, apparently ~~mm~~ only one pair used. Both obvs. defaced in 1843, along with three rev. dies of 1838-39 type, per account books of the Charlotte Branch Mint, now in the Archives. The other dies/not specified as defaced evidently had broken in use. The coins of 1838-39 from all three/southern branches show mintmark above date, which has rendered them extremely popular as type coins. The head used on 1838 C ~~mm~~ differs from any found elsewhere except 1839/8 D no. 1; the various minor modifications of heads found on 1838-39 coins are not marked enough to constitute new designs, but they deserve more attention than they have received. All are by Gobrecht.

1 Heavy crude curls. Old 1
Obv. Heavy double border. Mintmark C (smaller than in later years) above left part of 3, first cut low touching 3, then repunched higher so as to be free of numeral. Final 8 practically touches curl. Double punching on stars 1, 5, 9, 10 and 13. Depression on cheek (from water on die?) M 964, 49, 582, 55: 272, etc.
Rev. Similar to earlier dies. Berry has a very weak stem, which may not always be plain enough to see on worn examples. Leaf extremely close to U; arrows about touching CA. Base of T slightly below I-E; STA below base arc line of TES; ME join. ^{slightly} ^{AM sent;}
R-5, high, though I doubt it could qualify as a full R-6. ^{later, worked from shield, chief point to back, out from above winging towards chief point}
Two pairs of dies were shipped to Dahlonega, though no 1838 D coins are known to have been made.

Foreign matter marks on cheek vary in position. Coarser edge reeding than Phila. mint. 1838-40 probably some coined from SI bequest, see 1838-C, 1848 Ten D.

Note difference of dentils & rim on P & C mints.

See WB's G&SCRSBM in Bibliography below.

B-1 See Bib. below for WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1963.

Charlotte Mint Bullion Journal hereafter CMBJ. These are striking & delivery dates (in P-Mint only?). See Index of Subjects.

CMBJ #1: 7/27: 2,104; 4 Assay. 9/27: 3,506; 6 A. 11/8: 2,244; 4 A. 12/31: 40.

CM Assay pieces: From 11/5-8 2,244 mintage 4 to Assay. See Bibliography below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:579 'AU' die state described in Bib. below; —:580 'VF'.

See Bib. below for description of mint from 1913 ARDM: C-Mint 1837.

1839



\$2.50 1839 :46:
1 8 3 9
[27,021]

1 Old 1

Obv. In date, 9 over an 8, though this is not from the Head of 1838. Head slightly smaller than in 1838, with notable differences in back curls. Longer border dentils. Recutting on 6th to 9th stars inclusive.

Rev. Berry stemless. Arrows point to ^{center of} base of π C and ^{just r. of} left tip of right foot of A. On heavier strikes, fraction bar touches both 1 and 2; on weaker strikes, numerator is free. D below base line of E, both letters leaning right; S T far apart; adjacent A slightly high. *Remembered revival of 1836 rev. C!*

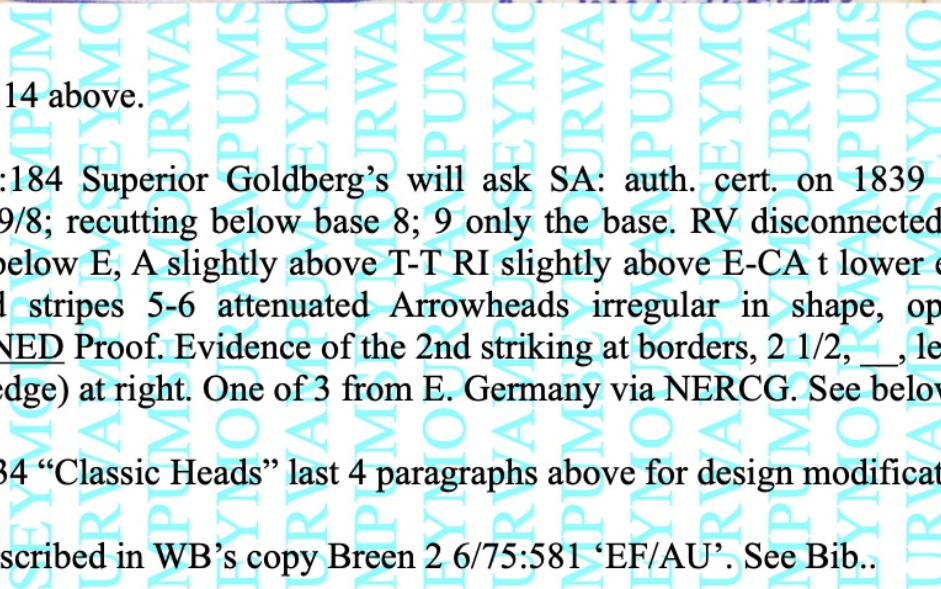
R-4 high, possibly R-5.



1839/8 overdate. Breen 1, C-1. Only one die known to be used, so all are overdates.

Breen COA for one **proof** exists; see below NB 54:184.

ed as overdate in Green {1936}.



NB 54:184 Superior Goldberg's will ask SA: auth. cert. on 1839 \$2 1/2 Proof. 9/8; recutting below base 8; 9 only the base. RV disconnected berry: 1/2 D below E, A slightly above T-T RI slightly above E-CA t lower ends of the red stripes 5-6 attenuated Arrowheads irregular in shape, opp CA. CLEANED Proof. Evidence of the 2nd striking at borders, 2 1/2, __, letters & wing (edge) at right. One of 3 from E. Germany via NERCG. See below.

B-1 Described in WB's copy Breen 2 6/75:581 'EF/AU'. See Bib..

NB 54:184 below: **Proof** cert...

Superior Goldbergs will 21/11 SA: auth. cert. on 1839
82 1/2 (P). 9/8; recently below base 8; 9 ^{with} + hnd. R
Disconnected very: 1/2 D below E A sl. above T-T
R1 sl above E - C + lower ^{end} & red. legs 5-6 attenuated
Arranged: irregular in shape, or CA. Cleaned (P) Evidence
2nd striking @ borders, 2 1/2, may. 1 to d. wing 1/2 r.
Cray 3 from E. Germany via NEACG

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1511 actio WB was a 1839/8.
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.
For additional information see original ms. in Bibliography below.
Janis-Breen Checklist ms. below.

Note--1838 G has the head of '39D. Rev. c. 1838. 1839.1. Similar to 1838, but slightly smaller head. Differences in back curls. Long dents.
27021 G-1 has 9 over 8 (Clapp knew only the one var.).
Rev. No stem. A n.t. wing. 1 1/2 t. CA. D below E. ED lean r. S T w. A sl. above
T. CF c. ME xot. AM and ER are both equally xc.

This above B&W copy is superior to original color scan.

1839 C

NO WA MS NO WA MS NO WA MS NO WA MS NO

1839 C

[18,140]

1 1839/38, arrows free of CA Old 1

Obv. Plain overdate. Mintmark C above left part of 3.

Rev. Same as 1838 C: weak, elongated berry; leaves have stems, arrows barely free of CA; A M apart.

Die states. Usually perfect dies. Latest impressions (Melish 1133) show vertical crack, rim through E of STATES towards eagle's head.

R-4. Possibly low R-5. Believed to comprise the 5880 minted March 16, 1839.

2 1839/38, ~~mm~~ arrows merge with CA Old 2

Obv. Same as last.

Rev. No berry; detached (stemless) leaves; arrows merge into CA; AM very closely spaced. Recutting sometimes shows on final S of STATES.

R-5. "Cicero" 273. Believed to comprise the 4,860 minted May 16, 1839.

\$2.50 1839 C :47:

3 Normal date, recut 39 Old 3

Obv. No overdate, but 39 recut, the 3 first cut too low and then corrected, the 9 very slightly altered in position. Mintmark above 83.

Rev. Similar to no. 1. Berry stemless and hook-shaped. Leaf ~~much nearer~~ to U ~~to MN~~. TA well apart. AM apart, but ME do not xatouch. Arrows free of CA, ending below right of center of C and right of left tip of r. foot of A.

LMWMMK. on whatever half the known examples.

Die states. I. Perfect dies, /II. Crack, rim to 9th star to hair. mmm

III. Crack, rim to 2nd star, chin, hair and first crack. mmm Rev.

This is where it is now shows crack from rim through A of STATES to eagle's beak, later extending down into shield. IV. The rev. crack now extends through left side of shield and eagle's leg down to large 2. V.

Crack from rim almost touching ^{wing, near} first S in STATES towards left corner of shield. VI. Crack from rim through ^{up} 3 ^{and curls} to ear. ^{Gilman 125.} All the

broken dies states are far rarer than the perfect dies: Melish 1135, and lot 1475, AN 47th sale.

Low R-4. Believed to comprise the 7,400 minted between July 30 and

Dec. 9. (The figure of 7,413 sometimes quoted includes assay coins, as do similar variant figures for the other deliveries.) Melish

1134: "Cicero" 930.

4 ch 3, Ap Die + 1838C, now heavily etched *is* *ph-62-10* *and* *crack. Had total A*

1839 D

1.



2.



3.



Recut 39. Known to exist from shattered dies.

Mintage figure above [18,140] was later corrected [10,740+]; for recut 39 (3) [7,400- July 30-Dec. 9] by Breen; see ms.. Exact numbers may never be known, adjustment by +/- 2% is accepted.

Two obv's. shipped Jan. 10 including overdate. First 2 vars. from two rev's shipped for 1838 C; first [5,880, March 16] is from 1838 rev. 1. Second [4,860, May 16] 2. Third (mintage included in next) is a small portion of obv. 3 & rev. 2 (shipped May 3), then pair 3.
HB 1-1839 CA crack 1 = A; B = 2; C = 3.

1839 C Repunched 39 [7,400-]: Two vars.: 2 & 3. Second obv. from Jan. 10 shipment. Rev. is May 3, shipment. Both dies later shattered. HB 2B; 2C. Deliveries July 30-Dec. 9 [7,400-]. There are/will be many dates when only a few pieces are struck of die pairs that overlap.

NN 47:1475 "Figures 39 heavily recut; both dies cracked across. Very Fine. One or two tiny rim nicks, impaired at the left reverse border..."

BMM 3/23/48:3565 "[...]Variety with light die breaks and figure 3 of date double-struck[...]" \$10.50.

See WB's G&SCRSBM in Bibliography below.

CMBJ #1: 3/16: 5,892; 12 A. 5/16: 4,868; 8 A. 7/30: 2,544; 4 A. 10/7: 1,533; 3 A. 12/4: 3,336; 6 A.

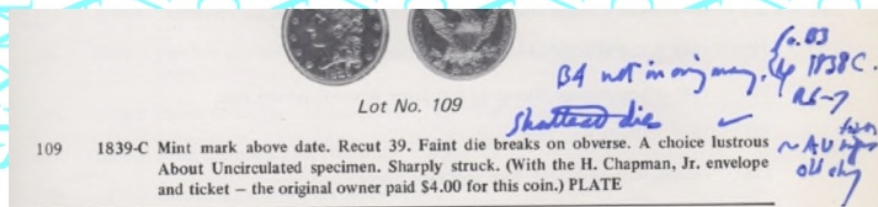
CM Assay numbers: From 5,892 mintage 12 pieces on 3/16. From 4,868 mintage 8 pieces on 5/16. From 2,544 mintage 4 pieces on 7/30. From 1,533 mintage 3 pieces on 10/7. From 3,336 mintage 6 pieces on 12/9. See Bibliography below.

Mehl 3/1948:3565. "Variety with light die breaks and figure 3 of date double-struck." Pathetic description. "[...]practically uncirculated[...]."

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1094 "1849 "C" With recut 39 in date. This is the cracked die variety[...]." \$12.50.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

KS 4/3-4/59:2605 "[...]Die breaks on reverse. Extremely Fine. [...]." WB's catalog he redacted 'reverse', led pencil: "both sides"; under 'Extremely' "rough".



3's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 in Bib. below.
A. Breen 2 6/75:582 'EF/VF' die state described.

3's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 in Bib. below.
A. Breen 2 6/75:582 'EF/VF' die state described.

3's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 in Bib. below.
A. Breen 2 6/75:582 'EF/VF' die state described.

3's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975 in Bib. below.
A. Breen 2 6/75:582 'EF/VF' die state described.

1839 D



(fact) 1839 D
[13,674]
Both varieties are overdates, the head being same as on 1838 C.
Two pairs of dies shipped Jan. 10. Three deliveries: 5,487 in
January; 4,026 in February; 4,161 in March. Logically two of
these should comprise one of the varieties, the third the other one.
It is as yet premature to conjecture whether the rarer of the two
varieties came before or after the other one.

\$2.50 1839 D :48:
1. *Front. gm and 12^m*
Obv. *only the 5th obverse.*
Fifth, and seventh stars show double punching, the latter less
~~obviously~~. In date, 1 high, 9 touches curl and is over an 8.
Rev. Normal leaves; with berry. Leaf very close to N. Arrowheads
merge with CA, which letters touch each other. D below base line
of E; ST about in line, AME nearly touch.
Die states. I. Perfect. *II. Rev.*
Crack through bases of UNITED
extending towards wing. III. Crack from rim through second T
in STATES towards eagle's head. ~~IV.~~ IV. Crack from left wingtip
(extension of first crack?) up to rim above ST; crack through
bases of AMERICA. All these cracked die states are rarer than
the perfect dies.
R-4. For long this was the only variety known.
2. *Same as no. 1. Results on 45 no longer obverse.*
Obv. ~~Similar.~~ The last one I saw did not show any recut stars. ~~The~~
~~overdate is about as on no. 1.~~
Rev. Lapped. No berry. *Stems of leaves* very weak, leaves thinner than usual,
claws small, thin and weak; lower two arrowheads smaller than the
top one, and they just touch CA (though these two letters are
spaced a little apart as usual). Arrowheads very thin and may
not always show plainly. *stem and detached.* Leaf point about equidistant between
UN, the N showing double punching. T below S-A base mark line.
Rm-6 high. *Gilman 126.* This was discovered by Harry Bass a couple of years back. *Back 26.*

B-2 Details described in WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:2002 "[...]Not in the original monograph[...]" in Bib. below.

Two pairs of dies shipped but only one obv. used. Reverse varieties may be same die after lapping, or second reverse die.

NN 47:1476 VF.

KS 4/3-4/59:2606 "1839-D[...]" WB in pencil: "/8"

NB 43:2 \$2 1/2 [13,674]-{5,487, 4,026, 4161. 1839-42:5/66, 100 1031-6.

NB 43:3 \$2 1/2 dies sent 1/10 rec'd 1/21 All [incl. \$5] canceled 2/8/40.

B-2 P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:583 'VF/F die described; "[...]Not in the original Breen Monograph[...]".'

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1839 O



1839 O :49:

1839 O

[17,781]

Two pairs of dies sent March 14; order of emission not determinable. The two varieties are distinctive enough to merit attention as type coins.

1

Old 1

Obv. Date high, ^{close,} curved, 39 low. Mintmark left of center above 3.

Double punching shows on 11th and 12th stars.

Rev. Small arrowheads, no berry, widely spaced 1 / 2. Shafts disconnected from claws. ^{stem end & disconn. for point}

Die states. I. Perfect dies. II. Crack from large 2 to ^{uppermost} leaf point to IT: cf. NN 48th, lot 1474; NN 49th, lot 585; ^{Gilman 127.}

R-3.

2

Old 2

Obv. Date low and ^{83 mod. t.} ~~mm~~ about in a straight line, Double punching on/stars. 3rd to 5th

Rev. Large arrowheads (the top one largest), with berry, closely spaced 1/2.

Die states. I. Perfect dies. II. Shattered reverse die, now often with rev. aligned 180° from normal placement. (J.F.Lindsay, ex Philip Straus estate, among others.)

R-4

1: Device punch imitates 1834 "Booby Head."
HB 1A.



1. Rev. arrow shafts disconnected.



2 Date low & in about straight line. Berry is disconnected. Struck from the second pair of dies shipped March 14. Reverse occasionally rotated 180 degrees from normal. HB 2B.

B-1. See detailed description in Bib. WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1807, —1808. Also see Bib. below for WB's copy Breen 2 6/75:584 'VF+' die described.

NN 47:1474 "[...]Fully Extremely Fine; slight rev. rim bruise. Reverse die broken at lower left. [...]"

OC NN "Zug" 1952 ANA:1472 "1839 "O". Mint mark between bust and date, [...]Uncirculated. Mostly brilliant with insignificant spot on the reverse, at the top of the shield. Far superior to the W.G.C. and Menjou examples[...]. Plate." \$31.00. See Bib. below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

For more information concerning description see original ms. in Bibliography below.

Eliaberg notes: Unc., weak lower rev.. Ex. L.Parmelee, Mills, Clapp. [Not noted LP 6/1890; JM 1904 via Chap. Bros; private from JHC.]

WB's annotated Stack's 6/1955:1087 below.

U. S. GOLD COINS	
1085	\$1.00 GOLD. 1856 Fine. <i>Nichol</i>
1086	— 1862 Extremely Fine. <i>12</i>
1087	\$2.50 GOLD. 1839 'O' Brilliant Uncirculated Gem. <i>AU 57-58. HRL-HOL 30-35 book</i>
1088	— 1903 Extremely Fine.
1089	— 1911 Very Fine.
1090	— 1915 Very Fine.
1091	— 1928 Extremely Fine.
1092	— 1929 Very Fine.
1093	\$3.00 GOLD. 1854 Fine.
1094	— 1855 Very Fine.
1095	— 1870 Extremely Fine. Scarce.
1096	\$5.00 GOLD. 1914 'D' Very Fine.
1097	\$10.00 GOLD. 1892 'CC' Very Fine.
1098	— 1932 About Uncirculated.

WB's annot. Stack's 11/59:'BU G. WB:'AU 57-58. HRL-HOL 30-37 book".
WB's PTA #1:33 "B-1" EF.

BV owned Kosoff's Unc. rotated reverse 180 degrees (as a Medal) for a period of time.

Important catalogs

V. Brand Collection. B&R Nov. 1983. PR's by Breen.

Rare 1790 Quarter Eagle

1790 Breen-2, with key serrations the reverse. Choice Very Fine-40. A fine eagle, mint state 18-40.

Of the 1,200 minted, this is the only one known that has the key serrations on the reverse. The 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800. The 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

The reverse of the 1790 is distinguished by its serrations. As the key serrations on the reverse were not struck until the year 1800, the 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

An important opportunity to acquire a fine coin.

Offering from the collection of Dr. William Breen, sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10. The Breen Collection, which was the first of its kind, was sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10.

Profile: 1820 Quarter Eagle

1820 Breen-2, profile. A very fine specimen of the reverse, with a small dent on the left. The reverse is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

Also noted: the 1820 specimen was struck at the 1820 mint. The reverse of the reverse, which was struck at the 1820 mint, is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

The reverse of the 1820 is distinguished by its serrations. As the key serrations on the reverse were not struck until the year 1800, the 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

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Obverse: 1820 Quarter Eagle

1820 Breen-2, obverse. A very fine specimen of the reverse, with a small dent on the left. The reverse is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

Also noted: the 1820 specimen was struck at the 1820 mint. The reverse of the reverse, which was struck at the 1820 mint, is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

The reverse of the 1820 is distinguished by its serrations. As the key serrations on the reverse were not struck until the year 1800, the 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

An important opportunity to acquire a fine coin.

Offering from the collection of Dr. William Breen, sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10. The Breen Collection, which was the first of its kind, was sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10.

Rare 1830 Quarter Eagle

1830 Breen-2, obverse. A very fine specimen of the reverse, with a small dent on the left. The reverse is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

Also noted: the 1830 specimen was struck at the 1830 mint. The reverse of the reverse, which was struck at the 1830 mint, is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

The reverse of the 1830 is distinguished by its serrations. As the key serrations on the reverse were not struck until the year 1800, the 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

An important opportunity to acquire a fine coin.

Offering from the collection of Dr. William Breen, sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10. The Breen Collection, which was the first of its kind, was sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10.

original mint here remains. A nice coin to illustrate the 1830 1830 design type.

91 1830 type as preceding. Choice EF-45. Small eagle, mint state, dark.

92 1830 a third specimen of the same type. Extremely Fine-40. Sharp and attractive.

93 1830 AU-50. Profile. A very pleasing coin.

94 1830 Extremely Fine-40. Much original mint luster to still present.

Uncirculated 1830 Quarter Eagle

95 1830 Breen-2, obverse. A very fine specimen of the reverse, with a small dent on the left. The reverse is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

Also noted: the 1830 specimen was struck at the 1830 mint. The reverse of the reverse, which was struck at the 1830 mint, is highlighted by the profile of the eagle.

The reverse of the 1830 is distinguished by its serrations. As the key serrations on the reverse were not struck until the year 1800, the 1790 law, which required an eagle to be struck with the key serrations, was not enforced until the year 1800.

An important opportunity to acquire a fine coin.

Offering from the collection of Dr. William Breen, sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10. The Breen Collection, which was the first of its kind, was sold by the Chicago Coin Company on June 27, 1983. Lot 10.

A. Kreisberg, H.Schulman, auction April, 1959.



- 646 Original heavy bronze medal by J. Paulus (Giampolo) 1946 in Rome of Eisenhower as General of NATO. Beautiful patina. This medal unknown. 3 3/4". EF. RARE. (50.00)

*JJF. #1
achtung!*

HITLER MEDALS

(All silver dollar size)

- 647 30 Jan. 1933. Bust l., rev: Eagle in Swastika. GEMEINNUTZ VOR EIGENNUTZ. Bronze. VF. *W.V.O.S.* (35.00)
- 647A Undated. Bust l., rev: DU BIST NICHTS / DEIN VOLK IST ALLES. Swastika below. Silver. UNC. (50.00)
- 648 1933. Bust r., REICHS KANZLER. ADOLF HITLER. rev: Eagle on swastika with date on neck EIN VOLK - EIN REICH - EIN FUEHRER. Inner inscription 30 JANUAR - 5 MAERZ - 21 MAERZ 12 NOVEMBER. Silver. Extr. F. (40.00)
- 649 1938. Bust r., DER EINER UND FUEHRER ALLER DEUTSCHEN. rev: Cross on Reichsapfel. DAS GROSSDEUTSCHE REICH IST ERSTANDEN. 13-3. 1938 29.9. 1938. Silver. Extr. F. (40.00)
- 650 Porcelain medal 1939 commemorating Hitler's 50th anniversary. His head l. Rv. Plain, in lower part two crossed swords, the sign of the porcelain factory at Meissen. 36mm. Red. Unc. (15.00)
- 651 Porcelain medal showing bust of the young Hitler facing, in civil clothes, as he was looking like in 1924. Rv. Inscription, 40mm, pmk, work of the famous porcelain factory at Meissen. Unc. *JCH / FUEHRER NICH ALS
BESTER DEUTSCHER, etc.* (15.00)

40

MAIL YOUR BIDS EARLY

...early gems. Worth (350.00) PLATE

2604 1838 Very Fine. —

2605 1839-C Mint mark obverse. Die breaks on reverse. Extremely Fine. Rare. Worth (60.00) *both sides*

2606 1839-D Mintmark obverse. Sharp. Very Fine. Scarce type coin worth (60.00) *1840*

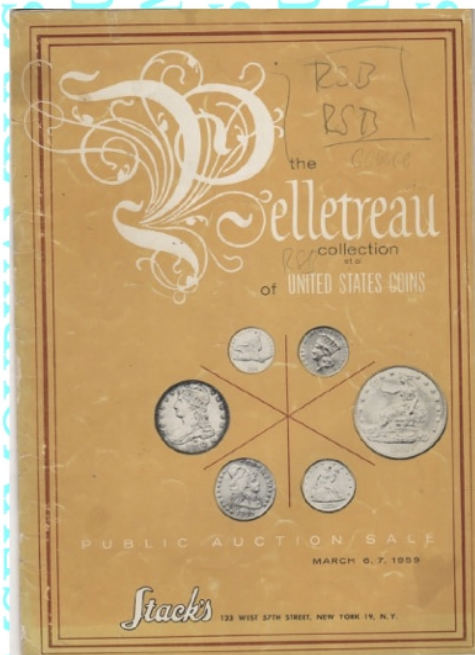
2607 1839-O A type coin, with mint mark on obverse. Quite scarce. Very Fine. Worth at least (35.00) —

2608 1840-O Very Fine plus.

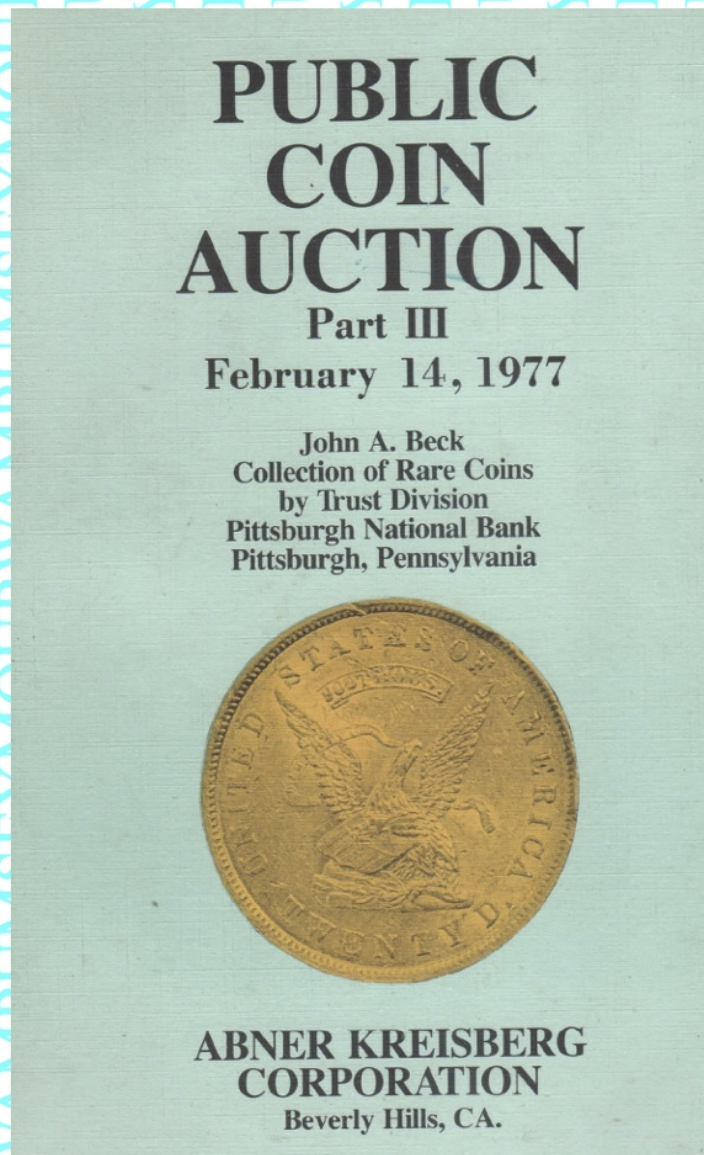
2609 1842-D

1554.0

Stack's Pelletreau.

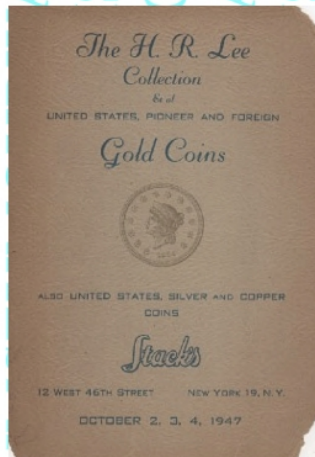


PCA III "Beck" 2/14/77. Walter Breen's annotated copy.

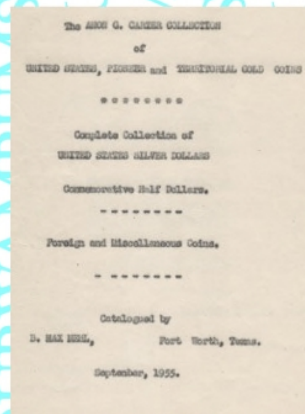


QUARTER EAGLES (\$2.50 Gold)

- 303 1834 **New Type**. Brilliant Uncirculated with proof-like surface. Faintly rubbed in field.
- 304 1836 About Uncirculated.
- 305 1839 'C' Type with mint mark on obverse above date. Extremely fine. Scarce this choice. Should bring in excess of \$100.00. **PLATE**
- 306 1839 'D' Type similar to preceding. Extremely Fine. A very scarce coin from the Dahlonega mint. Easily a \$125.00 coin. **PLATE**
- 307 1842 'C' Extremely Fine. Very scarce worth \$80.00 or so.
- 308 1845 Extremely Fine.
- 309 1845 'D' Very Fine. Rare.
- 310 1849 'D' About Uncirculated. Almost impossible to locate as choice as this. Rare. Will probably realize \$75.00. **PLATE**
- 311 1850 Very Fine.
- 312 1851 Extremely Fine.
- 313 1852 'O' Very Fine.
- 314 1853 Extremely Fine.
- 315 1854 'O' About Uncirculated.

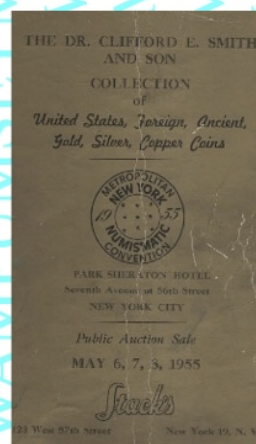


Herein: "H.R. Lee" S



10/47:_.

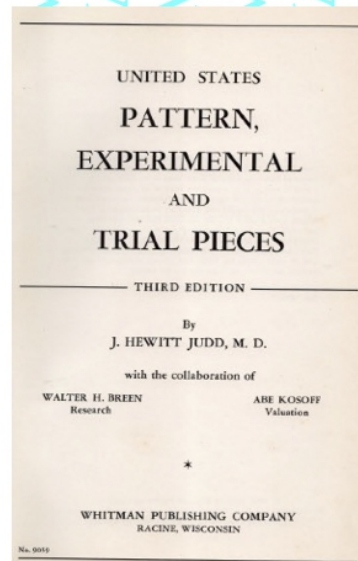
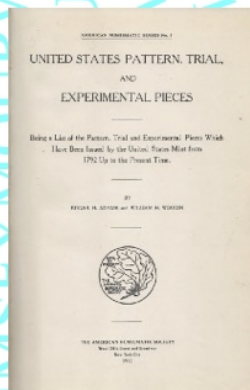
BMM A.Carter 10/55:_.



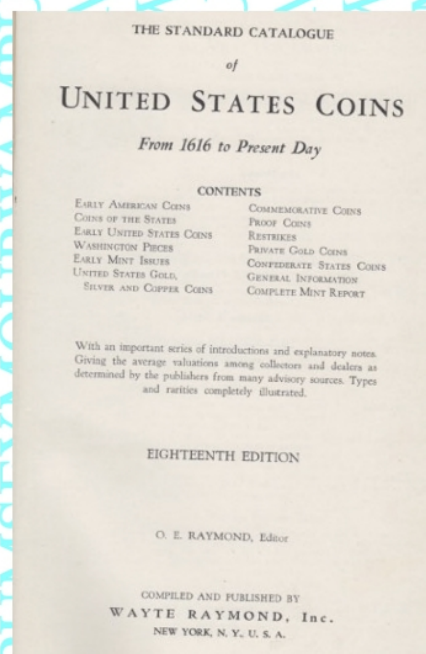
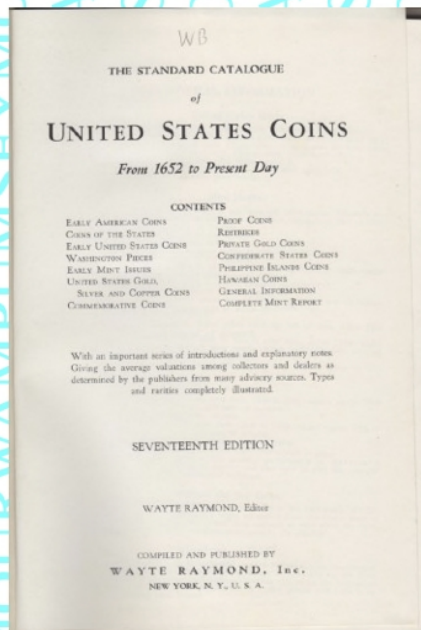
WB's S Smith 5/55:_.

Bibliography

See complete Gold Bibliography.



A-W above Ex. Libras Walter Breen.



Walter Breen's annotated The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins From 1616 to Present Day {1953} 17th; {1957} 18th.

More Catalogues.

BMM 3/23/48.



<<<<<confirm #'s in dates & TYPES are correct>>>>>>>>.

10/5/71 C Assay 1838-9, 1840 1843 73

1/5 2244- 4

11/5 2244- 4

12/31 40

1839

2/19 2204- 4

3/16 5892- 12

4/2 1944- 4

12 2084 4

5/16 4565- 8

6/17 1172- 2

7/10 2505- 5

30 1612- 2 4

9/11 2704- 4

21 2964- 4

10/7 1533- 3

21 3507- 7

12/9 3336- 6

30 2160- 4

31 1071- 2

3/9 1970 (1840)

4/15 2210

5/25 2560

6/22 3530

7/22 1980

8/17 1952

9/2 3390

15 1820

10/17 2206

11/18 2303

12/7 4250

30 1991

31 1672 36 16 (to Ch. Corner)

7/31 5642 No mention of ASSAY PIECES 1842

8/6 5992 8/6 ONLY 1833/4

2/? 7435 1833/4

4050 1833/4

1838-9, 1840 1843 73

1854-1855

1838-39

to Gold Corner; N. Corner to Ch. Corner

2/5/42 3229 2212 covered (1842)

2/25 2555

3/22 2040 SD 4595

4/27 1650 LD 22837

5/7 3234

78 2365

6/17 3738

6/18 2535

7/16 1732

8/10 2105 2924

9/3 1344

10/11 2376

11/9 2700

12/16 2194 48 8

2/4 2333 (1843)

5/3 1821

13 1984

4/7 2026

17 1826

28 2978

5/5 2366

16 2825

31 2197

6/19 2819

30 5736

7/25 6570

8/3 2089

21 2109

25 2558

9/7 2697

28 2468

10/5 2435

24 2655

11/9 2934

16 1559

25 1897

12/8 2144

25 2659

5246

2/6 1700

3/6 2248

4/6 2044

5992

In Corner's Hand

943.400 02.

516 N. Inpt.

17.551.63

5/6 887

9/6

630

17, 13

LD 8681

26064


1738

76 32

SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO
 URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO
 MPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMS
 EYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO
 URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO

979100
 904505
 1884285
 24
 1021.0000
 24
 42541
 1021.0000
 96
 61
 98
 130
 120
 90
 40
 1841743
 42542
 1884285

Walter Breen's annotated The Standard Catalogue
of United States Coins From 1616 to Present Day
{1957} 18th Ed.



			Very Fine
1834	New type, no motto	112234	16.50
1835	171402		16.50
1836	547986		15.00
1837	45080		20.00
1838	47030		18.00
1838	C 7880		65.00
1839	over 8 27021	53925-4568	22.50
1839	C 18141	59/8	35.00
1839	D 13674	normal - 17413 (cc)	40.00
1839	O 17781		25.00

Handwritten notes on the left margin: 12 or 27, 8", 4" +, 3".

Handwritten notes on the right margin: 120, 17413 (cc), 170 1/4.

UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

The first issues of these conformed exactly to the specifications of the Mint Act of April 1792, as did their silver counterparts. None bore any mark of denomination before 1807. These, like most of the earliest Mint issues, have their classical counterpart as far as design is concerned. The verification for this has been recently found in an unexpected quarter. The reverse of the eagle and half-eagle of 1795 shows a naturalistic eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a wreath of laurel in his beak; the original of this design is a Roman (First Century B.C., matching the famous Gemma Augustea) onyx cameo, No. 166 in the Vienna Collections, No. 4 in Eichler-Kris's catalogue of the antique cameos in the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Vienna. This shows the eagle standing to right, but in attributes and workmanship bears a remarkable resemblance to the 1795 die. Later gold dies are less imaginative, simply following the model of the silver coins almost exactly.

Coinage was very limited in the early years for all denominations except half-eagles. No eagles were coined between 1805 and 1837 inclusive, apparently because of exportation. Quarter-eagles were coined only in small quantities at infrequent intervals, on demand. Even the half-eagles, which for long constituted the Mint's major output along with silver half-dollars and copper cents, belie their coinage records in that many dates are extremely rare. The explanation for all this is believed to lie in the fact that many millions of dollars in pre-1834 gold were returned to the Mint after that time and recoined, being worth more than face value. \$100 face in old-style gold was worth over \$106 in new style gold, and unworn specimens in the aggregate would exceed this premium.

Proof gold coinage began around 1821, that being with one exception the earliest date we find. The Mint Cabinet contains both the \$5 and \$2.50 of this year in proof, also 1824 and most later dates except 1849-53 inclusive. The exception mentioned is the 1804 eagle with plain 4 in date, and otherwise differing considerably from the single variety of the regular issue. There are two proofs in gold of this and about five in silver (AW23); no record of them exists before 1869, and as early as 1911 the opinion was voiced that these are restrikes. No real proofs could have been made before 1817, that being the year in which the Mint acquired its hydraulic press and struck off the first proof cents and half-dollars. Of proof gold the majority of issues before 1880 are very rare; some issues, such as the 1841 quarter-eagle, 1863 quarter-eagle, 1883-4 double eagles, and the well-known three-dollar pieces, are found only in proof or impaired proof condition.

The 1848 quarter-eagles with CAL over the eagle are properly experimental pieces. The alloy is not that authorized by the Government. The U.S. standard since 1837 was (per thousand) 900 parts gold, 33 to 50 parts silver, 67 to 50 parts copper. The alloy of California gold, and thus of these quarter-eagles, is approximately 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver to 4 parts of various other metals. It is easily distinguishable by its brassy color. The CAL stamped on the quarter-eagles was evidently done while each coin was in the die, as Proskey says; the letters were put in with a punch, and were stamped in by hand, as their placement differs somewhat on different coins. One or two are reported in brilliant proof condition.

This is not the only instance of unconventional gold alloys being used by the Mint, for experimental purposes. In the early thirties the Director submitted to a Congressional committee a half-dozen pieces of the same \$2.50 denomination, struck in (1) pure gold, (2) 900 gold 100 silver, (3) 900 gold 100 copper, (4) 900 gold 33 silver 67 copper, (5) 900 gold 50 silver 50 copper, (6) 900 gold 67 silver 33 copper. These pieces were marked above the eagle by small punch-marks. The idea was for the Congressmen to decide among them and to authorize a mixture of silver and copper to be used in the alloy of gold coins to give them a good color. This was authorized in Section 8 of the Mint Act of 1837, some five years after the experiments took place.

A similar experimental alloy was used in the 1836 pattern gold dollars by Gobrecht. A few of these were struck in gold with silver alloy, and some more were made in the standard gold (AW50). Though Archives records are lacking, it would seem that these coins and this denomination were intended for the con-

UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

sideration of Congressional committees who were then preparing the Mint Act of January 1837, mentioned above. This denomination was the first one authorized beyond the original three of the 1792 Mint Act, in any event. Longacre's designs were accepted, however, instead of the Mint's using the Gobrecht dies which were already at hand. (The Coiner used them to make a three-cent silver pattern in 1850.)

For the various types of heads on the 1849 gold dollars, see under "Notes."

The first gold dollars coined in 1873 (both Unc. and Proofs) have an almost closed 3 resembling an 8 and they have sometimes been mistakenly sold as 1878's. The Coiner complained to the Director about the closed 3 and subsequent dies have a more conventional open 3. The closed type is about six times as scarce as the open 3.

Many brass counterfeits (and some in other metals) of the gold dollars, and quite a number of \$2½ and \$5 in other metals including silver, are found and offered as "trial pieces". Several of these are listed in Adams-Woodin, and bear dates between about 1843 and 1861. No alleged trialpiece should be accepted unless in proof condition and unless the die work matches the genuine perfectly.

The other denomination authorized at the same time as the gold dollar, namely the double eagle, has an extremely complicated and interesting history, which we can only briefly allude to here. The first dies Longacre made were disapproved by the Coiner as being of too high relief; the first trials were made Dec. 22, 1849, upon which occasion the dies are said to have broken. Longacre then prepared, with the help of an unnamed engraver from New York, a second and third set of master dies. The first trials in base metal were taken January 12, 1850, and the first few gold (and one silver) strikes January 26, 1850; the same complaint was revived, and these dies (undated) were not used for the authorized coinage beginning in March 1850, but the third set was. By this time Longacre was at his wit's end. The preceding January, on account of much public reproach at not obtaining the double-eagles, Longacre was threatened with the loss of his job; C. C. Wright had already been approached for the Engravership and had accepted. Longacre retained his post only by rushing to Washington and enlisting some political assistance. By 1854 the whole incident ended with the Coiner's dismissal. One mystery is: what happened to the other 1849 double-eagles besides the Mint specimen? One was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, and several were retained by the Director and the Coiner. Moreover, the Mint specimen was not from the first die, as it is not in high relief and will stack perfectly, which was the complaint against Longacre's first two attempts: they would not. Thus either the Coiner was lying, or the '1849' was made in 1850.

In 1861 a reverse die made by A. C. Paquet was accepted for regular use on the double eagle. Its distinctive feature is tall narrow lettering. The die is found on two coins from the Philadelphia mint (and on a few patterns dated 1859-60) and on a few S mint examples. The die was found unsuitable after these coins had been struck at Philadelphia and the Director sent orders to the branch mints countermanding its use. This order did not reach the San Francisco mint until after 19,250 pieces had been struck and released.

The other new denomination, rivaling the half-eagles of the 1820's and the double-eagles of the 1880's for the number of rarities, is the three-dollar piece. Fifteen proofs of the design later adopted were struck in April 1854 for presentation purposes. All the coins of 1854 and no later ones have small letters in DOLLAR. Proofs exist of all years through 1889, and at least two dates (1873 and 1875) were certainly restruck, accounting for the sizable excess of number extant over number originally struck and reported.

There are, unfortunately, no references at present which give much useful information, either on die varieties or anything else, for the gold coinages. Adams published a very incomplete list of die varieties of the eagles and half-eagles 1795-1804 in the 1934 Coin Collector's Journal, but many more varieties than he knew of have been recorded.

NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

Where an unusually small coinage occurs we have placed the number in brackets after the date. Early dates 1795-1834 are quoted only in very fine condition. Worn specimens sell for less and really uncirculated pieces bring a great deal more.

Gold Dollars



1849 Type I. Small head, without L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point midway between two stars. Very rare.

1849 Type II. Small head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Head placed as last. Scarce.

1849 Type III. Large head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point nearer star immediately right of it. Common.

1849 Type IV. Large head as last. Closed wreath (see below). Common. Also known with a recut date.

1849. Open and closed wreath. The first issues of this year have a wreath with branches spread wide. In the latter part of the year the type shows the branches lengthened, drawn up to the top close to figure.

The record of four gold dollars coined at Charlotte in 1854 actually covers assay pieces of 1853 discovered to have been lost in transit to Philadelphia for the meeting of the Assay Commission in February 1854.

1855 C, D, O. The 8 in date is very weak and barely shows on any of these pieces. The 1855 D is the poorest struck.

1861 D. The entire issue of this date was struck by the Confederacy from United States dies. Unfortunately the account books of the Dahlonega Mint are not available so that the amount coined cannot be determined.

Quarter Eagles

1806 over 4, 6 over 5. The 1806 over 4 has five stars facing Liberty. The other variety has six stars facing.

1808. The bust on this coin is a copy of that on the Half Eagles, 1807-12.

1834 Motto over eagle. One of the great rarities. Probably not over a dozen are known.

1841. All known are proofs or impaired proofs.

1845 O. The 4000 specimens struck were actually coined in January 1846 before the 1846-dated dies had arrived, and had formerly been included under 1846 in the mint records.

Three Dollar Pieces

1854. The first year of issue has small letters in DOLLAR. 1855 and all following years show these letters larger.

The mint records were formerly thought to be confused on the numbers struck of 1873 and 1875. It is a fact that 1873 is far commoner than the mint records indicate, and that over 30 specimens exist of 1875, but this has been established to be a result of restriking.

1856 S. Large and small mint mark S of which the smaller is much the scarcest.

1870 S. Only two specimens were struck. One was put into the cornerstone of the new San Francisco Mint building, the other remains in a private collection.

NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

Half Eagles

The many great rarities in this series would make a story by themselves. Only a very small number of specimens are known of such dates as 1798 small eagle, 1815, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1824, 1827-8-9, 1832.

1795 Heraldic eagle. This coin is believed to have been an unintentional restrike, made in 1797 or 1798. The number of stars above the eagle proves that this could not have preceded the admission of Tennessee in June 1796.

1822. Only three specimens are known of this coin, one being in the U.S. Mint collection.

1825 over 4. The only one yet traced is the brilliant proof in the Eliasberg collection.

1832. Curled 2, 12 stars. ~~One of the rarest coins.~~ The editor knows of only five pieces, two of which are in museums.

1841 O. Only two reported, only one seen (Col. Green, Farouk). Reverse of 1840 O.

1916. We have seen one or two coins of this date evidently of the Philadelphia mint but are not convinced they are not S mint coins poorly struck so that S does not show.

Eagles

The demand for the first types 1795 to 1804 continues unabated. Prices seem well stabilized. We have given a valuation on the dates 1838 to 1854 only in very fine condition as uncirculated specimens are rarely met with and those of a lesser grade seldom collected.

1804. Plain 4, proof. See under restrikes.

1907 St. Gaudens. This design has as interesting varieties as the double eagles, the two following really being patterns but generally accepted as part of a collection of eagles. Of the variety with periods and rolled edge only 42 were struck, while the same variety with sharp wire edge is said to have been coined to the extent of 500 pieces. Two of each were melted during Mint experiments.

The St. Gaudens type eagle has 46 stars on edge, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars.

The 1933 eagle remains a rare piece, even though several new specimens were recently reported discovered.

Double Eagles

Twenty Dollar pieces of the 19th century are very unusual in really uncirculated condition. These coins were made to use and are usually nicked and scratched by rubbing against one another in bags.

1854. Large date as on the silver dollar. Small date as on the cent.

1861 Paquet reverse. Two struck (Unc., not proof) at Philadelphia, Jan. 5, 1861, at which time the Director discovered that the reverse die was too wide, the borders too narrow. He immediately countermanded any further use of the design.

1861 S. Paquet reverse. There were 19250 of this type struck and released before the order from the Philadelphia Mint belatedly reached San Francisco forbidding the use of this reverse. These coins are now very rare. That they actually circulated is shown from the fact that the first one published (1937) came from a hoard in Hull, Texas.

1907 St. Gaudens. Roman numerals. The wire edge is not an intentional variant, unlike that on the eagles of this date, but instead a result of the collar giving way.

The St. Gaudens type produced in 1907 brought forth a number of interesting varieties including several patterns. Some of the dates after 1916 are of distinct rarity, especially some of the branch mints. All specimens of the 1933 coin have finally been returned to the Treasury Department by the U.S. Secret Service on the ground that they were not legally released by the mint.

The St. Gaudens double-eagle has 46 stars on obverse, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars on obverse.

UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

The introduction of this new feature in the catalogue is designed to point up the fact that, like both patterns and commemorative coins, United States proofs from dies of the regular types constitute a distinctive series entirely separate from the regular issue for circulation. Proofs, strictly speaking, are impressions from highly polished dies on polished planchets (except for the period 1908-16 when so-called mat (matte) or sandblast proofs were made, following the fashion introduced by the Paris Mint), never intended as circulating currency. They were 'polished-up portraits' of the coinage types, struck since 1817 for presentation to prominent officials or foreign dignitaries, and since 1858 also for sale to collectors at a premium. Though legal tender, just as are commemoratives, they were never counted as circulating coinage, and this fact is substantiated by the Bullion Journals and other official accounts of Mint coinage transactions. These contemporaneous accounts leave no room for doubt that proofs (at least before 1892-3) were, with the single exception of the Gobrecht Dollars, never included in reported coinage figures. Neither the gold and silver bullion nor copper planchets figured in the records. And after proofs began to be included with regular coinage in the Director's Reports in the sixties, the Coiner's accounts of proofs were still kept and submitted separately, with the medal accounts, to the authorities. This practice is known to have held at least through 1889, and its continuance for so many years strongly emphasizes the fact that proofs definitely form no part of regular coinage, but are a separate series altogether.

Up to the present time, with very few exceptions, the values attached to proof coins have not taken this fact into account. Such values have ordinarily been derived from the largeness or smallness of the regular coinage for circulation, whereas strictly speaking the rarities of uncirculated and of proof coins of the same date and denomination are independent, and the prices consequently should be also. Take for example the three-dollar goldpieces. Because of allegedly small reported coinages, 1875 and 1876-77 bring extremely high prices in proof; while dates such as 1855-57 and 1874, which are much more rare as proofs, bring far less simply because of larger quantities of coins reported for circulation. The double eagles in the 1880's are even more to the point. And in many other series proofs are twenty to 100 times commoner than uncirculated examples, particularly in the 1870's and 1880's; for example the three-cent nickels and half dollars between 1882 and 1887. The survival of mint state specimens is largely a matter of good fortune, whereas proofs were struck in fairly large numbers and now turn up frequently—at higher prices than the rarely seen uncirculated examples. We anticipate that this illogical situation will gradually correct itself when the correct relative rarities become known.

For all these reasons and others, it is expected that in future proofs, due to their greatly enhanced value, will be to a greater extent collected as an individual group independent of circulated and uncirculated coins of the same types, just as commemoratives are collected as a series by themselves and not mixed up with half-dollars of regular issue. This manner of collecting becomes more significant when one realizes that the rarities among a series of proofs are entirely different dates and types than the rarities among the corresponding series of coins struck for circulation, and that many dates coined in proof do not exist in specimens struck for circulation, or vice versa. In a set of proof dimes, for instance, the great rarities would be dates like 1820, 1824, 1838, 1841, 1849-53—all of these far from rare in ordinary condition; while dates like 1879-81 are rarely offered in any other condition but proof.

The commonly published statement that proofs were struck only in Philadelphia has a few authentic exceptions. The genuine proofs from the branch mints are separately tabulated. All of them are of extreme rarity.

Although we have a fairly complete account of the dates and denominations of proofs struck between 1817 and 1854, we are not pricing them in the present catalogue for several reasons. First, most of these (except half-cents and silver dollars in the 1840's) are so rare that sales of any particular items do not occur often enough to establish a stable price. Second, the prices they do bring do not

Deceptive 'proofs'
misrepresentation.

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Why not
integrate
from Unco.

1797-54 R, 1811 by L.C.
925-1000

Value -
demand
rare
condition
'Proof'
hardly
condition
rarely
shouldn't
be!
demand
after proof
to an extent
of NUMISMATICS
(Continued)

UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

adequately reflect the relative rarities in each series, for the same reasons as were mentioned before in connection with the three-dollar pieces. Third, there still remain some problems connected with restriking in this group. Evidence continues to turn up that many dates and denominations of proofs were restruck in the 1860's, some from the original dies, others from new ones manufactured for the occasion. Obviously these belong neither here nor among the regular issues, but instead in the section devoted to restrikes.

With regard to early proofs, it is true that we find specimens of the silver coinage of 1796, and of some other issues of the period, with brilliant prooflike surfaces. Nevertheless, proofs in the true sense of the word were not struck until 1817. Facilities for their manufacture came to the Mint as part of the general renovation and improvement of machinery following the Mint fire of 1816, and in the next year some cents and half-dollars were struck in proof. For the twenty- or thirty-odd years following 1817, so far as is known, the Mint struck all or practically all its proofs in sets, and these sets were intended for presentation to visiting politicians and foreign dignitaries, mints or museums. In 1834, for example, the State Department ordered two complete sets of the year to be prepared, put in special caskets and sent to the Imam of Muscat and the King of Siam; and sporadic similar orders—rarely more than two or three per year—followed in subsequent years. The important exceptions to the above statement about proof distribution are the handling of the Gobrecht Dollars, which are really patterns, and the report that Mickley obtained four proof quarter dollars of 1827 from the Mint in that year for face value.

There is no unequivocal record of the Mint's having sold sets or individual proofs to private collectors before 1858. Recipients were charged face value plus \$3 for the casket plus eight cents for proofing—this latter charge was even levied on the Mint Cabinet for proof sets in the 1860's. Both the first public sale of proof sets at a premium (\$3 for the silver-minor set, \$46 for the set with the gold) and the very name of **proofs** are the work of Col. James Ross Snowden, 1858. The name and the premium (gradually increased) have continued to the present day except for 1917-35 inclusive, 1943-49 inclusive, the only proofs besides patterns struck in those years being 1921 dollars (both types), some commemoratives and a few other items. Minor proof sets or individual coins were nowhere accounted for in the Archives until the beginning of 1878. The conjecture that they had been previously struck to the same number as silver proof sets may be very likely correct; but no evidence exists.

Italicized values are due for a sharp rise or fall; italicized dates were coined only in proof; italicized quantities coined are reconstructions.

The French matte finish, with several minor variations, comes on Lincoln cents 1909-16, Buffalo nickels 1913-16, 1916 new type dime, quarter and half, 1908-12 gold. The sandblast finish comes on gold 1912-16 and 1921-22 Peace dollars as well as most commemoratives, 1921-36. Other coins have brilliant fields and unpolished high surfaces, like the 19th Century proofs. The late proofs since 1936 are almost uniformly mirrorlike.

1872-59
ACB: M. Matte
SB Sandblast
RG Roman
SM Sand-matte or other finish

Ask AF.
to see a
fantasy prof
(1950-58)

[158]

Hoard W. Breen NUM 1952.

NUM
JAN. 1952
PAGE 7

From THE NUMISMATIST, January 1952
(Third Annual Heath Literary Awards)

SURVEY OF AMERICAN COIN HOARDS

By WALTER H. BREEN, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

XVI. The Baltimore Gold Hoard.

In the cellar of the house numbered 132 South Eden St., Baltimore, then owned by Mrs. Elizabeth H. French and Miss Mary P. Findley, there was found on August 31, 1934 a quantity of American goldpieces. The finders were Henry Grob, 15, and Theodore Jones, 16. Initial count made at the time of finding showed that the hoard contained between eleven and twelve thousands of dollars in face value alone.

As one might expect, there followed considerable litigation over title to the gold. Much of this hinged on the time of burial of the coins — all were dated before 1857 — as compared with the time when the ancestors of the then owners of the house had gotten title to that house. During this time (Sept. 1934-May 1935), despite a court order forbidding any sale or redemption of the gold, the relatives of one of the boys sold \$185 worth of it for face value. Nevertheless, when the Second Circuit Court of Baltimore (Eugene O'Dunne, judge) finally awarded the entire hoard to the two boys — over the protests of the two lady owners, who had wanted to settle by giving them 25% — there were, by one newspaper account, 3558 coins with total face value of \$11,425.50.

By Court decision, the coins were auctioned May 2, 1935 in the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Perry W. Fuller was auctioneer; Harry O. Levin, supervising attorney. The printed catalogue shows that the hoard realized \$19,558.75 for the 438 lots. Some of these catalogues are still extant — those I saw are in Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library. I give a condensed version of the contents:

Denomination and date	Phila.	N.O.	S.F.	C.	D.
\$20. 1850	92	5			
1851	79	10			
1852	47	2			
1853, 54	27, 12				
1855	6		12		
1856	1	1	23		
\$10. 1839, 40, 41.	2, 1, 1				
1842 L.D. and S.D.	2	1			
1844		1			
1845	1	1			
1846		1			
1847	13	7			
1848	5	2			
1849	10	1			
1850	6	2			
1851	1	3			
1852	1				
1853	4	3			
1854	1		1		
1855, 56	7, 3				
\$5. 1834, 35	15, 2				
1836, 37	12, 3				
1838	6			1	
1839, 40	1, 8				
1841	1				
1842					1
1843	12	5		2	1
1844	6	6		2	
1845	10	3			
1846	4			4	1
1847	20	1		1	1
1848	8			5	1
1849	6			1	1
1850	5				2
1851	13				
1852	20			5	2
1853	12			3	3
1854	11	1			6
1855	15			3	1
1856	3				
\$2.50 1834, 36	2, 5				
1839					1
1843	1	4		1	
1845	2				
1847		1			
1848					1
1850, 51	4, 5				
1852, 53	11, 14				
1854, 55	7, 3				
1856	4				
\$1.00 1849, 50	95, 78				
1851	452				
1852	322				

JANUARY, 1952

19

Denomination and date	Phila.	N.O.	S.F.	C.	D.
1853	976				
1854-I, II, 1855	215 each				
1856	296				
Various, 1849-56	39 Damaged coins				

The above account is not completely certain, as the catalogue's listings of gold dollars contain a few ambiguities. All the coins listed above were circulated, most being "very fine."

Some of the prices may also be of interest. The single 1856-O double eagle, "very fine," brought \$105. (It was the highest-priced item in the sale.) The 1849-O eagle, also "very fine," brought \$45. The 1841 half eagle, "fine, scratch on date" — \$26. The 1847-O half eagle, "fine — \$22. Most of the other coins brought less than double face.

By all reasonable criteria, this sale should have ended the affair, and the result should have been merely the enrichment of two under-privileged boys. However, it didn't quite turn out that way. In the very same month that the auction took place, the two boys got together again, and after one told the other that he was "feeling lucky," they went and searched again in that same cellar which had yielded them the original hoard — and dug up between eight and ten thousand dollars more of the same kind of material, after hundreds of other people with shovels had found nothing.

This second hoard likewise became the object of more lawsuits, and again was awarded to the two boys on the assumption that it was part of the original treasure. And while the litigation was going on, a similar clandestine sale took place, this time of \$2500 worth (face value) for \$3005 to one Yale Merrill and his brother — around September 1935. The appeals were finally decided at the end of 1937, upholding the lower court decisions in favor of the two boys. No auction of the second hoard took place, however, and its composition is not definitely known, though it was presumably similar to that of the first.

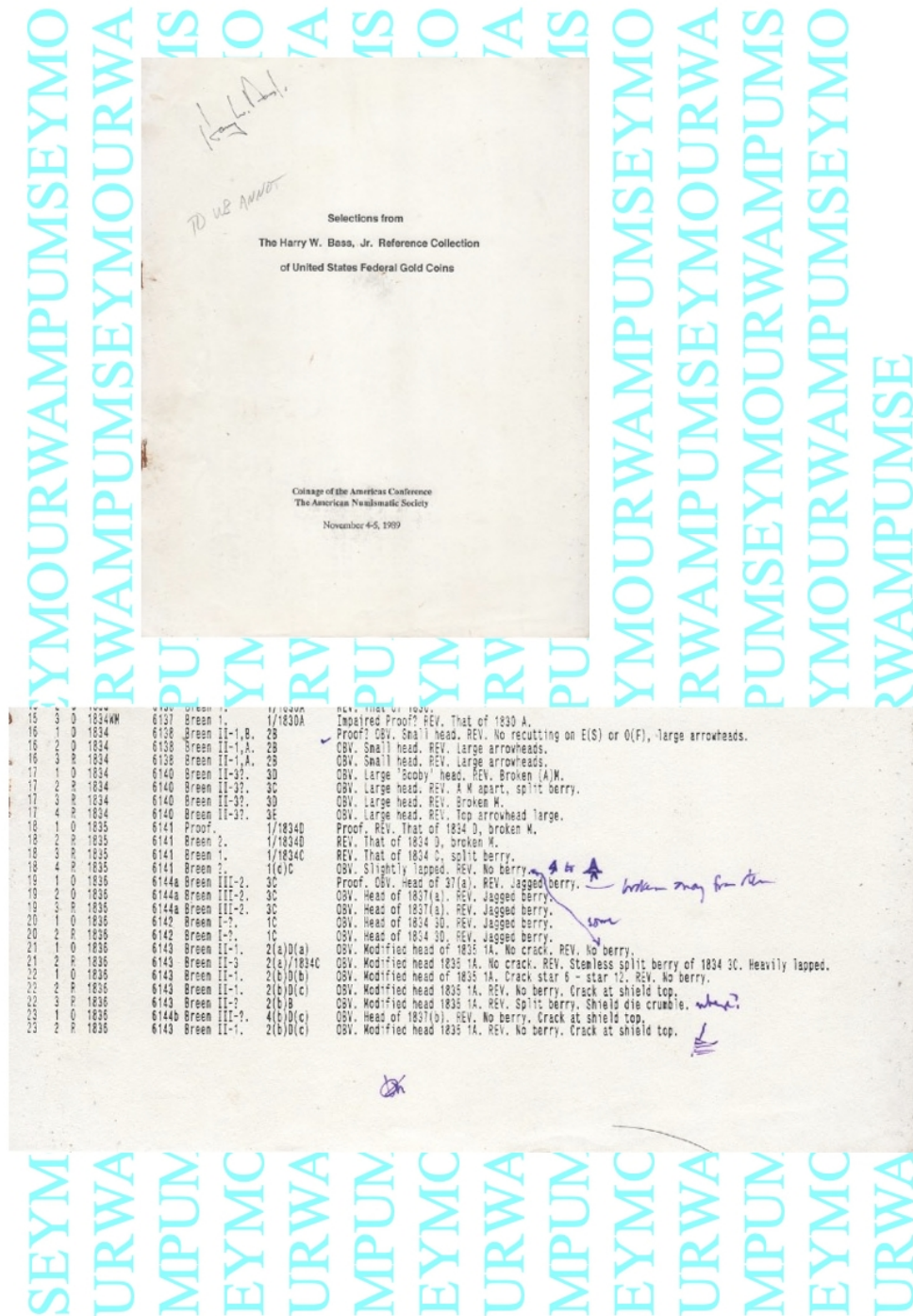
This hoard unfortunately did the two boys little good, if we may judge by their later histories. Both are now dead, the Grob boy having died in 1937. By 1936 the other one had already been sentenced to the reform school. The only mementoes of the whole episode are the coins, many of which are still owned by local collectors.

Several other accounts exist of coin finds in Maryland between 1924 and 1939, but in no other case is the composition or any other definite information known. Contemporary newspaper accounts are mostly romantic rhapsodies on buried treasure in general, revealing their authors' ignorance of the facts about the hoards at hand.

Sources:

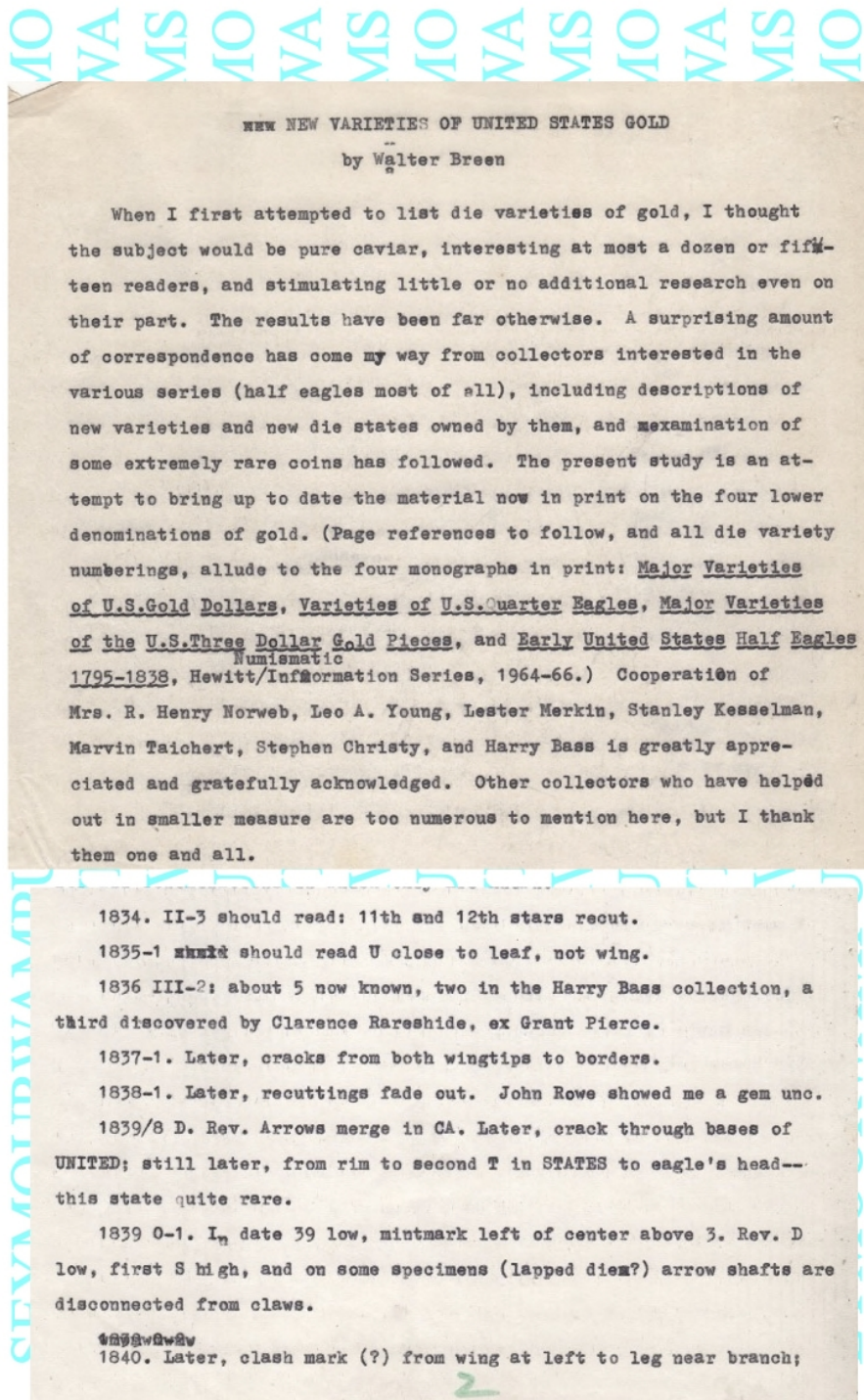
1. Perry W. Fuller — Auction catalogue of May 2, 1935.
2. Newspaper clipping file "Treasure Trove," *passim*, in Enoch Pratt Library's Maryland Room.

Harry Bass Collection.



Grp#	C#	O/R	Year/MH	Green#	Green Var.	Bass Variety	Description	Page
24	1	O	1837	6145	Green 2.	1A	Proof. OBV. Stars 8-10 repunched. Crack star 8 to date. REV. Berry with stem. Top of 2 in denomination appears odd.	2
25	1	O	1837	6145	Green 1.	2B	REV. Berry with broken stem. Crack at left wing tip.	
25	2	R	1837	6145	Green 1.	2B	REV. Berry with broken stem. Crack at left wing tip.	
26	1	O	1838	6146	Green 1.	1(a)/1837A	OBV. Stars repunched. REV. That of 1837 Proof 1A.	
26	2	R	1838	6146	Green 1.	1(b)/1837A	OBV. Stars repunched. REV. That of 1837 Proof 1A, lapped.	
27	1	O	1838 C	6147	Green 1.	1A	OBV. Usual cheek depression. REV. Berry with stem.	
28	1	O	1838/8	6148	Green 1.	1/1838C	OBV. Head and stars as 1838, longer denticles. All of date repunched. REV. That of 1838 3C.	
28	2	R	1838/8	6148	Green 1.	1/1838C	OBV. Head and stars as 1838, longer denticles. All of date repunched. REV. That of 1838 3C.	
29	1	O	1839/8 C	6149	Green 2.	2B(a)	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 39 repunched. Lapped. REV. Stemless berry. Branch end left of D. Arrows touch CA. Final S repunched.	
29	2	R	1839/8 C	6149	Green 1.	2C	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 39 repunched. Lapped. REV. Berry with broken stem. Branch end over center of D. Arrows touch CA. First S repunched.	
29	3	R	1839/8 C	6149	Green 2.	2B(b)	OBV. Head and stars of 1838. Lapped. REV. Lapped. No berry. Leaves with broken stems. Branch end to left of D. Arrows touch CA. Crack thru E(S).	
30	1	O	1839/3 C	6150	Green 3.	1(a)/1838C-A	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 3 repunched above 3. Not lapped. No crack. REV. That of 1838-C, 1A. No stem to berry. Arrowheads clear of CA. Cracks A to head to 2; over right wing.	
30	2	O	1839/3 C	6150	Green 3.	1(b)/1838C-A	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 3 repunched above 3. Not lapped. Cracked star 2 to star 9. REV. That of 1838-C, 1A. No stem to berry. Arrowheads clear of CA. Cracks A to head to 2; over right wing.	
30	3	R	1839/3 C	6150	Green 3.	1(b)/1838C-A	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 3 repunched above 3. Not lapped. Cracked star 2 to star 9. REV. That of 1838-C, 1A. No stem to berry. Arrowheads clear of CA. Cracks A to head to 2; over right wing.	
31	1	O	1839/2 D	6151	Green 12.	1A	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 39 repunched. Some stars repunched. REV. Stemmed talon-like berry. Strong talons. AME nearly tough. Arrowheads well into CA. Crack thru base of UNITED.	
31	2	R	1839/2 D	6151	Green 12.	1B	OBV. Head and stars of 1838, 39 repunched. Some stars repunched. REV. Heavily lapped. No berry. Broken leaf stems. Weak talons. AME slightly apart. Arrowheads barely touch CA.	
32	1	O	1839 D	6152	Green 1.	1A(b)	OBV. 'High Date', centered in field. 3 lower than 8. REV. No berry. 2 of fraction away from bar. Leaf stems missing. Crack 1 - leaf - 2.	
32	2	R	1839 D	6152	Green 1.	1A(b)	OBV. 'High Date', centered in field. 3 lower than 8. REV. No berry. 2 of fraction away from bar. Leaf stems missing. Crack 1 - leaf - 2.	
33	1	O	1839 D	6153	Green 2.	2(a)B(b)	OBV. 'Low Date', low in field. No crack. Lapped. UPSET DIES. REV. Stemless berry. 2 of fraction touches bar. Weak leaf stems. Cracks: right wing - beak, neck - left wing - A, arrowhead - R, etc.	
33	2	R	1839 D	6153	Green 2.	2(a)B(a)	OBV. 'Low Date', low in field. No crack. REV. Stemmed berry and leaves. 2 of fraction touches bar. No cracks.	
33	3	R	1839 D	6153	Green 2.	2(a)B(b)	OBV. 'Low Date', low in field. No crack. Lapped. UPSET DIES. REV. Stemless berry. 2 of fraction touches bar. Weak leaf stems. Cracks: right wing - beak, neck - left wing - A, arrowhead - R, etc.	
34	1	O	1839 D	6153	Green 2.	2(b)B(c)	OBV. 'Low Date', low in field. Crack rim - eye. REV. Stemless berry. 2 of fraction touches bar. Weak leaf stems. Cracks: right wing - beak, neck - left wing - A, arrowhead - R, etc.	
34	2	R	1839 D	6153	Green 2.	2(b)B(c)	OBV. 'Low Date', low in field. Crack rim - eye. REV. Stemless berry. 2 of fraction touches bar. Weak leaf stems. Cracks: right wing - beak, neck - left wing - A, arrowhead - R, etc.	

WB: Varieties of U.S. Quarter Eagles original ms.



Research in the Archives Gold Coinage Revisions By Dates. By Walter Breen (cont.) November- December 1951. WB's copy.

RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES

GOLD COINAGE REVISIONS BY DATES

By WALTER BREEN

CONTINUED

Philadelphia

For brevity I omit the quarterly figures, but the figures presented are valid and all are based on the (sometimes weekly) reports in the Bullion Journals. The totals in American State Papers—Finance contain typographical errors. Another source of confusion previously has been the fact that Director's Reports in 1796-7 were ordered by Congress prematurely. The 1796 report was delivered Nov. 29 and consequently a delivery of 854 eagles, 2797 half-eagles and 897 quarter eagles was included by error in the 1797 report although all these were made in 1796 to be exact, between Dec. 8 and Dec. 22. This is corrected here.

	\$10	\$5	\$2½
1795	2795	8707	
1796	6934	6196	963 (both types)
1797	8323	3609	859
1798	7974	24867	614

N. B. First coinage of 1798 half-eagles Jan. 4, 691 pieces—were these the small eagle type? I believe that a study of early

gold die varieties would prove that the 1795 heraldic \$5.00 were made in 1798.

1799 17483 7451 480 Dec. 28

All other published figures confirmed though no explanation appears for the unknowns (1801 \$5, 1802 \$10, 1803 \$2.50). The latter were not carryovers. 1807. There is no reasonable evidence for or against Snowden's division of the \$5: 33496 Type I

50597 Type II

1808-14. No problems.

1815. 635 Nov. 13 plus 3 for assay.

The Coiner had \$3661.33 in gold fit for coining 12/31/15; no more coined because of the Mint fire which made extensive repairs necessary to the rolling apparatus.

1818-33. No questions. Figures obtained (as above) confirm published.

1834. Motto \$5—74709, \$2½—4000 Coinage stopped May 30 anticipating the reduction in weight. The Act of 6/28 became effective on August 1, 1834.

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Snowden doubts that the \$2.50 were ever issued. No Motto \$5—685028, \$2½—112234.

In 1835-6 approximately \$2 million of gold of former ratio was recoinced; far smaller amounts thereafter. The totals are not determinable since accounting of source of bullion deposits is far from complete. The whole amount of gold of former ratio brought into the Mint cannot be far below \$3 million and may exceed it.

1838. Coinage of Eagles resumed December; four "specimen coins" sent on or before Dec. 10. One of 1838 (and one of 1839) proof is in the Mint Collection. 1841 Quarter -Eagles. None reserved for assay. Evidently they were only a "specimen" coinage like the half-cents.

1849. Gold Dollars. Coinage started May 8. There exist a few pieces with small head somewhat differently executed and placed than on the regular; one is in the Mint Cabinet and is the first gold dollar proof I have seen and the second I ever heard of, moreover besides the 1849 \$20 it is the only proof coin of that date in the collection. Probably a pattern as this type head was not perpetuated. It is impossible to say when the open wreath was replaced by the closed wreath; no data are known to me on this subject other than letters (far later) of the D/M saying that the open wreath were the "first issue".

1850. Regular \$20 coinage for circulation started March 12. A proof was in the J. B. Longacre collection.

1854. Probably the best division would place the gold dollars as follows:

Type I 840040

Type II 799405

The difficulty here is in assigning a delivery of August 19 (56097). The

first "specimens" sent the Secretary of the Treasury for approval were transmitted August 17; when his letter of approval arrived is unknown—it has not been found in the Archives. Coinage had been intermitted since June 17 (783943 till then); evidently the change of type was then contemplated. If the Sec'y telegraphed his reply, it is possible that the Aug. 19 delivery was of Type II; but no real evidence. In the absence of better data, the figures I gave above (allowing the Aug. 19 delivery to be included as Type I) will stand. It is almost certain that the Sec'y approval came on or before Aug. 24 and that is the assumption I am proceeding on.

\$3.00 gold: Regular coinage started May 1, first delivery 23140 on May 8. On April 28, 15 "specimens" were enclosed in a letter of the Director to the Sec'y of the Treasury.

1858. The 2521 eagles did not include proofs, as far as can be learned.

It may be mentioned that around 1860 the Director caused about \$2 million in gold dollars of the small size to be remelted and recoinced. These pieces had lain for years in the N. Y. Assay office, and in the Director's Report (for 1860 or 61, I believe) there is mentioned his belief that the rest ought to be gradually recalled, the "evil" of having two coins of different sizes but same value being only too apparent. Whether any more were actually recoinced I have been unable to find out, but the chances are that any subsequent recoinage was small on account of the suspension of specie payments and the consequent hoarding of what precious metals were available during the Civil War.

Later notes on gold coin will be found among proof coin notes.

The Coin Collector's Journal

WB's annotated copy Gold and Silver Coinage
Revision Southern Branch Mints CCJ Sept.-Oct.
1951.

GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION

GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION
SOUTHERN BRANCH MINTS

New Orleans

The records for the first two or three years are somewhat confused and incomplete for several causes. One of them is that investigation which occupied the greater part of 1839 in the N.O. Mint and resulted in the replacement of the Superintendent and Treasurer (respectively David Bradford and Edm. Forstall) by J. M. Kennedy and Horace Cammack. This first treasurer (Forstall) seems to have been the tool of his clerk, incompetent to do more than sign the papers shoved in front of him by that clerk. The latter did an unknown amount of figure juggling and embezzling. Another reason was the death of the Coiner and the Melter and Refiner during the investigation. These officers might have otherwise cleared up much of the confusion. A third reason is the absence of regular monthly reports, the responsibility jointly of the Treasurer and Superintendent. A fourth is the omission of some figures from the reports that were sent in. A fifth is the use of dies of the previous year in the current year, though this was against the "advice" of the director. My reconstruction of the 1838-39 N.O. coinage figures follows, for the disputed denominations, and is based on all extant material of relevance.

	Half-Dollars	Dimes	Half Dimes
1838	?	489,064	115,000
1839	162,976	1,121,672	1,016,550

Dimes

The first 30, struck May 7-8, 1838 were not included in later Mint reports. Ten were put in the cornerstone of the New American Theatre in New Orleans, laid the same time; one was sent to the Director at Philadelphia (was this the specimen now in the Mint Cabinet?) and the rest were distributed among the Mint officials and workmen in New Orleans. Coinage immediately stopped because the dime press required extensive readjust-

ments and repairs before any more than those first thirty could be struck. (The dies had arrived on the 3rd of May). Between June 29 and the end of July a total of 367,434 more dimes were struck, the press only by then being in workable condition. Coinage stopped by the first of August and the Mint shut down on account of New Orleans's annual yellow fever epidemic.

Coinage resumed November 30th also supposedly (from the reports) of dimes, though more probably of half dimes. 35,000 pieces were struck. It is worthy of note that post-investigation figures provided by the Treasurer at New Orleans and included in the 1850 and later Director's Reports called these 35,000 half-dimes. The presently published figures (402,434 dimes) are a result of the Director in 1887 having gone back to the pre-investigation reports made by the incompetent treasurer Forstall. It is also certain that some dimes and half-dimes dated 1838 were made in 1839—see below.

Half-dimes

None were reserved for assay in 1838—highly irregular. It is certain that some were struck late in that year, however, because a letter of the Superintendent, David Bradford, of January 4, 1839 refers to the fact that all but one pair of the half-dimes dies of 1838 were worn out. The 1839 dies of dime and half-dime denomination were forwarded January 30, 1839. The exact date of arrival is unknown but certainly at least two weeks later; the average time required was 18 to 19 days. Previous to then were struck:

	Dimes	Half-Dimes
Delivered Jan. 16	3,600	70,000
Delivered Jan. 31	118,000	10,000

My reconstruction includes these figures plus the 35,000 of the November 1838

coinage and the thirty struck in May 1838 for the proper denominations. No previous 1839-O dies are known to have been sent for the dimes and half-dimes and certainly none for the others. The first 1839 half-dollar dies were sent February 26 and arrived March 16. The next were sent March 12 and received at New Orleans March 29 along with two pairs of quarter eagle dies.

Half-dollars 1838-O

The historical background is provided by the letter of March 7, 1839 from Bradford to the Director in Philadelphia:

... Up to this time we have but one Coining press in operation and that the least of the three we have. About the Middle of January, Mr. Tyler struck a few pieces of half-dollars in the large press. He informed me that the half-dollar dies that had been received at this Branch Mint were made from Mr. Ecfeldts press and were too short for the large press in this Mint. He informed me that he had fitted a Member to supply the length in which the half-dollar dies we have are deficient but that it was crushed after striking a few pieces. We urgently need the quarter dollar, the half-dollar, and a further supply of the dime and half-dime dies for the year and I respectfully request that they be forwarded to this Branch Mint by the earliest opportunity. I have to request that you inform me how many pieces a set of dies generally strike and whether we may use the dies we have on hand for 1838? ...

The Director's reply, dated March 15 reads:

"I advise that the dies of 1838 be not used by you, tho' we have sometimes used the dies of a particular year for a few days after its close. The number of pieces that can be struck with a pair of dies depends upon the hardening and is very variable. Our average is about 200,000."

From the preceding correspondence it appears that Bradford had presented the

Director with a fait accompli; the date of striking of the half-dollars (in January) compared with the time of arrival of the 1839 dies in March proves that the January emission was dated 1838. These half-dollars were not included in monthly or quarterly reports and may be considered as *essais* having been made solely to test the press.

The 1894 *Numismatist* contains on page 198 a review of Frossard's auction of the W. M. Friesner collection, and next to Lot 583 gives a note on the latter's disposition and source. This lot was one of the 1838-O half dollars. Not mentioned as such in the catalogue, this half-dollar was noted in the *Numismatist* review as coming wrapped in an old piece of paper inscribed in Rufus Tyler's handwriting: "The enclosed specimen coin of the U. S. branch mint at New Orleans is presented to President Bache by Rufus Tyler the Coiner. It may be proper to state that not more than 20 pieces were struck with the half-dollar dies of 1838." The coin was reportedly bid in by A. G. Heaton—early specialist in Branch Mint coinages. Its present whereabouts had not yet been ascertained at this writing, assuming that the Tyler autograph still remains with it.

Assuming the authenticity of the report and quotation in the *Numismatist*, we have an upper limit to the number coined of 1838. Extant New Orleans Mint records in the National Archives (which are all letters to Philadelphia and Washington) give no hint as to the actual number struck or extant, but it will not be far wrong to say that there were probably at least sixteen struck. The previous estimates of only three (Beistle), four (Dr. J. L. Riddell, melter and refiner at New Orleans) or seven (B. Max Mehl) are grossly inadequate. If only that Number, three to seven, had been struck, would Tyler have said simply "not more than twenty"? And actual count quickly exceeds the earlier figures. Colonel Green at one time owned four

of them, and there is no reason to believe that he had cornered the market. Besides his hoard, there is a fifth specimen in the Mint Collection; two or three others are in other museums and more in private hands. Beistle's estimate can be disregarded as he evidently did not have access to all of Green's material. The figure given by Dr. Riddell (quoted in Yeoman's Guidebook) is at best second-hand information, as he did not take office until some months after Rufus Tyler died. (Rufus Tyler, first coiner at New Orleans, died Sept. 8, 1839 from yellow fever, and was succeeded by his brother Philos B. Tyler. The melter and refiner, James Maxwell, fell victim to the same disease and died August 18, but Dr. Riddell, who was then appointed to succeed him, was on a geological expedition in Texas, and could not be located until the end of November; he gave bond and was sworn in shortly afterwards. This Riddell is perhaps better known for a "Monograph on the silver dollar, good and bad" published in 1845, and for his later excellent work in connection with the Confederate postal service.)

All specimens seen from these dies of 1838 are brilliant proofs, which immediately raises the question: were those now extant actually made in New Orleans or did Eckfeldt make them in Philadelphia before sending the (already mintmarked) dies to New Orleans? I personally think that they were intentionally made in New Orleans as proofs or "specimen coins" as they really were then called; there are several other examples of mintmarked proofs in the Mint Collection (now in the Smithsonian Institution), notably (1) 1879-O silver dollar, for which see below; (2) 1854-S double eagle; (3) 1855-S half dollar, and this is known to be the first specimen struck from the dies in 1855, sent by the superintendent to Director Snowden in Philadelphia for the Mint Cabinet. All of these pieces are perfect and bear all the

earmarks of the Philadelphia proofs. No record survives of when the Mint got its 1838-O half dollar, but I believe it is quite unlikely that the piece was made in Philadelphia. Besides, the reverse—unlike any others examined shows a broken die and the question arises: Did this damage result from the crushing of the piece of metal Tyler put in the press to supply the deficient die-length? See Bradford's letter of March 7, 1839, quoted above.

During late 1837 and early 1838 one of the three coin presses at New Orleans had been used in tests for striking some cents. Nothing is known about them, whether they are in existence now or were instead melted, other than the fact that the dies were dated 1836, and were in the press when the men from Philadelphia coining department brought it down to New Orleans in that year. These dies, along with all 1838-O dies, were destroyed June 13, 1839.

The extremely large proportion of dimes and Half dimes coined in New Orleans compared with the quarter and half-dollars is attributed by Bradford and the Director (Patterson) to the fact that they passed respectively for $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents—i.e. bits and half-bits of the Mexican and Spanish dollars.

1841-O. The problem of alleged half and quarter eagle coinages is solved thus:

	\$5.00	\$2.50
Jan. 1841	6300	
Feb.	2000	
Aug.	50	7380

The 1840 dies were not destroyed until Feb. 27, 1841; the time of arrival of the 1841 dies is not known but is believed to have been around then. It is therefore quite probable that the Jan. and Feb. deliveries were dated 1840. It is, however, just as probable that 50 half-eagles and all the quarter eagles were dated 1841 (the August delivery) since the Coiner would not be likely to hold over a shipment of coined gold for six or seven

months after it was struck. He was responsible for it, and it would seem that he would want to get it out of his hair and into the Treasurer's hands, having it entered to his credit in the bullion journal. A half-eagle was reported by one Speice a good many years ago in the Numismatist. The reverse was supposed to be the same as 1840-O—(quite plausible, since ordinarily only new obverses were sent to the branch mints each year, reverses only on requisition to replace worn out or broken dies).

1845-O Quarter Eagles.

These were struck by January 22, 1846 from the 1845 dies. The 1846 obverses only arrived Jan. 24. Only 4000 were coined, plus four reserved for assay which accounts for the scarcity of this date.

1849-O Quarter Dollars.

This is a more difficult problem not yet completely solved. The best estimate perhaps would place the number at 16,000. None were struck in 1849, and the 1849 dies were defaced April 1, 1850. The 1850 dies arrived some time before April 5—exact date unknown. Coinage reports are missing for the first two months, but no quarter dollars were then reserved for assay, which indicated either no coinage or else only "specimens". In March only half-dollars were reported as coined. No other coinage figures are extant before July. The Mint closed on or about April 13, from (among other things) lack of a Treasurer and it is possible that some kind of hold-over took place. The next we hear of quarter dollars is when the Mint reopened in July. First delivery July 8, 16,000. The complete reports from July to December are not extant, so it is yet impossible to determine (by subtracting these from the 1850 calendar year totals) the amount of previous coin-

age which was presumably dated 1849. This problem will not be completely solved until the bullion journals or missing reports are located.

1853-O Coinage without arrows.

The number is unknown but certainly included 160,000 half-dimes (more than the Philadelphia coinage). It is very probable that many of these were melted as being worth more than face after the Act of 1853. 1000 old = 1074 new. The dies of 1853 without arrows (two obverses of each denomination below the silver dollar) arrived January 11, 1853. There was no coinage reported in the first six months except the 160,000 half-dimes in March. The dies without arrows were destroyed May 31, the dies with arrows having been received on and after April 29. No half-dollars or dimes without arrows were reserved for assay, indicating a very small coinage. They were all probably struck the first two weeks in May and reported among the July issues—though this is not definitely known, nor will it be until the bullion journals of this branch are recovered. The new coinage with arrows began July 7 and about a half-million of each denomination were struck in the one month.

1879-O. Regarding the twelve silver dollar proofs made to commemorate re-opening of this branch February 20, 1879, I may say that there is one of these in the Philadelphia Mint Collection, which is as much a proof as the 1838 Dollar and 1849 double eagle. I would say it was made in Philadelphia but for the mint mark O. The first delivery of silver dollars in 1879 was of 10000 made February 27, 1879. It may be mentioned that the New Orleans branch is known to have had a hydraulic press and this press is known to have been there before 1869, although when it was made is completely a mystery.

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The fact just mentioned, plus the other fact that the Coiner's Dept. in each branch mint regularly finished, hardened and adapted dies for the individual coining presses, and on the recommendation of A. L. Snowden (Phila. Coiner since 1866) used polish on the dies to strike coins bright. It would presumably not have taken too much additional trouble to produce a mirror like finish; many of the coiners in the branch mints having had experience in Philadelphia knew how to do this.

Dahlonega.

The monthly reports of coinage sent to Philadelphia indicate no revision is required in published figures. The 1866 gold dollars reported for 1860 certainly did not include any dated 1861. This 1860 figure is a calendar year figure based on the monthly reports sent to Philadelphia during that year. This branch mint struck half-eagles only during January and February 1861 and ^{with} nothing after the Confederacy took over April 8. Assay coins included two half-eagles and no gold dollars. This branch mint was in constant touch with Philadelphia until April 8, long after the defection of New Orleans, and no other coinage was noted. The gold dollar dies for 1861 (two dated reverses) had been sent December 10, 1860 and had arrived with the others by January 7, 1861. Consequently, the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that the Confederacy struck the gold dollars just as they struck 887 half-eagles at Charlotte and several millions in gold and silver at New Orleans all from dies of the U. S. The reason why the number of gold dollars of

1861-D is unknown lies in the simple fact that the bullion journals and other books of the Dahlonega Mint have not been located since the Civil War and it is suspected that they are being held by private parties in the South.

Charlotte Mint

Coinage operations started on March 28, 1838. No deliveries are recorded in the bullion journals in the first quarter. The published figures ever since the 1838 Director's Report indicate 1900 more half-eagles struck. There is no way of accounting for this. The bullion journal figures I have summarized below correct a number of erroneous impressions formerly circulated as facts. One of the most frequent errors was the inclusion in coins Released of pieces actually reserved for assay. This error comes from a defective bookkeeping procedure which credited Gold Coinage, not Coiner's account of Gold with pieces reserved for assay. This procedure was apparently corrected after 1843.

	\$5.00	\$2½
1838	10959	7880
		In all cases not including assay-pieces
1839	23425	18140
1840	1970	
	Broad mill, Struck by March 9	12822
	17022	
	Regular type, In and after April.	

The explanation for the above:

There was a letter from the Director to the Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint, Feb. 6, 1840, enclosing quarter-eagle dies and saying, "In the half-eagle dies sent to you on the 24th ult. your Coiner will notice that the border is

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left wide and deep.* To produce the proper effect upon the coinage, it is necessary that he should cut the planchets larger than usual so that the milling may be very heavy. I will thank you to call his attention to this circumstance."

R.M.P.

D. _____

To
Col. Jno. H. Wheeler
Supt.

*The border is, in fact, too deep and we have found it necessary in consequence to make a very deep milling. In the next dies this fault will be corrected.

The exact date of shipment of those "next dies" is unknown, but is believed not to long postdate the delivery of that letter. The same variation is seen in Philadelphia half eagles of 1840 the "broad mill" being observed on a few proofs, including the Mint Collection and the Woodin specimens. The above is a genuine major variety.

	\$5.00	\$2.50
1841	21467	10281
1842	27432	6729
1843	44268	26064
1844	23631	11622

Mint burned July 27; closed accounts Dec. 1844; resumed coinage Oct. 1846.

1846	12995	4808
1847-53	No problems; coinage figures confirmed.	
1854	39283	7295

and NO gold dollars.

The published coinage figures erroneously gave out that 39,291 half-eagles and 4 gold dollars were issued. This problem is solved as follows: Bullion Journal 1854. Item in Profit and Loss Account for \$44; for 8 half-eagles and 4 gold dollar assay coins lost in their transmission to Philadelphia, March 1853. These were evidently for the annual assay to be held in Feb. 1854 at which time the loss came to light and was entered in the Bullion Journals. You

will also note that the total of 1854 half-eagles differs by exactly 8 from the totals in the Director's Reports. Undoubtedly the difference of 8 comes from those same assay-coins.

There are no further problems until 1855-60. 1861 Under the United States of America:

Feb. 1700 half-eagles
Mar. 2248 half-eagles
Apr. 2044 Half eagles Covers period April 1-18

Total 5992 Coined by the United States

The Confederacy took over April 20. Bullion Journal no longer refers to Charlotte as "U. S. Branch Mint" but simply as "Branch Mint, Charlotte, No. Ca." Was it regarded as a branch mint of New Orleans?

Under the Confederacy:

May 887 Half Eagles (Director's report of 6879 includes these CSA pieces—5992 plus 887 equals 6879.)

The above Confederate coinage from U. S. dies was taken up by error in the Director's report, though like the millions issued at New Orleans after the rebels seized the mint in January 1861, it was not issued under the authority of the United States. The Charlotte Branch closed operations Sept.-Oct. 1861. No more reported on the books as having been coined and some thousands in gold bullion were returned to depositors uncoined (conjecture—were the dies worn out?) Twelve half-eagles were returned to Philadelphia for assay presumably from the Feb.-April deliveries paid for out of Contingent Expenses, per order of the Governor of N. C. There is no record of any previous assay-coins sent to Philadelphia and this was evidently a regular part of the yearly close of operations. Twelve 1861-C half eagles were tested by the Assay Commission in Feb. 1862, said to have been from the Feb.-Apr. Charlotte coinage.

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WESTERN BRANCH MINTS

Carson City

Extant monthly reports (and they are not complete) confirm published figures on gold and silver coins 1870-93 so far as seen. There are relatively few problems in this series. One is the 1873 arrows versus no arrows coinage and how it divided.

The dies without arrows were received Nov. 9, 1872. Dies with arrows (obverses) were received March 31 to be used on and after April 1, 1873. Delivery figures for silver of the first three months are complete, and they indicate that the silver coinage divides as follows:

Dollars	Half Dols.	Quarters	Dimes
No. arrows 2300	102,500	4,000	12,400
Arrows —	234,560	12,462	18,791

The above, of course, does not include assay-pieces. The most surprising figure is the dimes, and no explanation readily arises. No monthly coinage reports sent from Carson are extant covering the period of the 1876 twenty-cent piece. Five were reserved for assay in March only. There were thirty reserved in 1875, which shows the approximate ratio. One monthly coinage account-book prepared in Washington says 2000 (recorded as dollars) evidently this was the source of the figure in the Director's Report. There is every reason to believe that many if not most were recoined when the denomination was discontinued, like the proofs in Philadelphia. Judging by the fate of the 12,400 dimes mentioned above, it is not hard to believe that a similar event happened to these far more unpopular coins.

San Francisco

Operations started April 3, 1854. The 1854-S coinage reports are correct as published. The Mint collection has a brilliant proof 1854-S double-eagle; only

one I ever heard of. The first silver was coined March 1855. The first half dollar struck was sent to Philadelphia and is now in the Mint Collection. It is a brilliant proof. The main trouble in starting gold coinage was the difficulty of procuring parting acids in order to separate enough of silver from the gold deposits to make them of the standard required by law. California gold averaged 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver and traces of other metals; the law required 900 parts gold to not over 50 parts silver and 50 parts copper, ranging to 900 gold and 100 copper. The Mint's gold usually contained from 33 to 50 parts silver in the thousand to give the alloy a good color.

1858-S quarter eagles

All the 1200 reported were coined before Jan. 19, 1858. The 1858-S dies arrived long afterwards—sent from Philadelphia March 4. Therefore this alleged coinage was dated 1857.

1861-S

The Fecht gift to ANS contains a double-eagle of this date and mint with a reverse (as on AW281) designed by A. C. Paquet, Mintmarked S. This piece was illustrated in the March 1937 Numismatist P 199. It was found in a hoard in Hull, Texas. About this coinage I have the following information: The San Francisco branch reopened for coinage Jan. 10, 1861. Previously the Supt. had complained of trouble in hardening and adapting to the presses the new double-eagle reverse (this Paquet die). And then a letter of Feb. 9, 1861: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 5th ult., 'overland' which however did not come to hand until the 2nd inst. I was, therefore, unable to prevent the striking and issuing of a large number of Double

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Eagles coined with the new die. The amount coined was \$385000."

The "favor" referred to was undoubtedly the order (like that sent about the same time to the New Orleans Mint) for the branch mint to use the old \$20.00 reverse and not the new one—an error in diameter had occurred at the Philadelphia Mint and the pieces struck would be almost impossible to make to stack, because of the excessively narrowmilling. From the preceding it seems that there were actually issued:

Paquet reverse	\$20.00	19250
(Smallest coinage 1854-1907)		
Regular reverse		748750

1866-S. Coins with and without motto. The dies with motto IN GOD WE TRUST were sent March 16, 1866 and received in San Francisco April 14, on April 16 more (especially more obverses) were requisitioned. Coinage reports are as follow:

	\$20	\$10	\$5	50 cents
January	15750			
February	38000	8500	9000	
March	66250			60000
April	48750	5500	10920	
May	104250		9000	10000
June	51750	6000	5000	
July-Dec.	517500	—	10000	984000

All the quarter dollars were struck in August. All the monthly reports were dated the end of the month, and no divisions are recorded. Consequently, the gold coin divisions into with and without motto are subject to the possibility of a small error from possible inclusion with the latter of any no-motto coins struck in the first 14 days of April. The only way for certainty on this point to exist would be for the bullion journals of San Francisco Mint for that period to be located.

My tentative division:

	\$20	\$10	\$5	50 cents
No Motto:	120000	8500	9000	60000
Motto:	722250	11500	34920	994000

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1870-S

The 3000 gold dollars were all struck in May 1870. Either they were made between May 28 and May 31 or the mintmarks were put in by the Coiner as on the \$3.00 pieces. There is also a big question whether some may not have been released WITHOUT mintmark by this branch.

The following documents explain:

Telegram received Philadelphia
5/14/70.

LETTER, OMITTED ON ONE
DOLLAR AND THREE DOL-
LAR DIES SENT TO THIS
BRANCH FOR THIS YEAR.
2000 PIECES COINED CAN
THEY BE ISSUED

O H LAGRANGE SUPT

Letter from L. to Philadelphia May 27,
1870:

Sir: I enclose herewith receipt of Wells Fargo & Co. for one dollar and three dollar dies which were yesterday forwarded to you at Philadelphia. It is proper to state that our Coiner cut the letter S on the three dollar die after it was received here for the purpose of stamping a single piece to be put into the casket for the cornerstone of our new mint building. Only one piece was struck under my direction for the purpose above stated. (Signed) O. H. Lagrange, Supt. Hon. James Pollock, Dir.

Note that this Supt. does not mention or even hint at any duplicate being struck for any other purpose; yet we know that the Coiner J. B. Harmstead did make one other, which appeared in the Wood-in collection. A letter of May 28 acknowledges receipt of two \$1.00 silver reverses, two \$3.00 and two \$1.00 gold reverses. Neither the \$3.00 nor the \$1.00 silver were ever accounted for in coinage reports. No silver dollars particularly,

were reserved for assay, which indicates either that they were made at Philadelphia (not very probable) or that the coinage was a "specimen" one of exceedingly small size.

1873-S

Dies for silver without arrows arrived Nov. 16, 1872. The arrows dies arrived April 12, 1873. In January and March, no silver coinage. But in February, though the coinage report is unlocated it is on record that one Silver Dollar, one Half Dollar and 33 half-dimes were reserved for assay. These were, therefore, 1873-S dated issues. The fewness of assay-coins of the \$1.00 and 50 cents in-

dicates an extra small coinage, and we know that there were only 700 dollars. The complete coinage reports by months for 1873 half-dollars are not extant to my knowledge, so it is not possible to ascertain the February half dollar coinage by subtracting the sum of the later ones from the published total. This problem, again can be solved only when the missing report or the bullion journals are located.

There is no historical background for the half and quarter dollars coinages of 1878-S; all were made in February. Neither is there any for the 24 dimes of 1894-S; they were reported in June, without comment.

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NB 43:2 below.

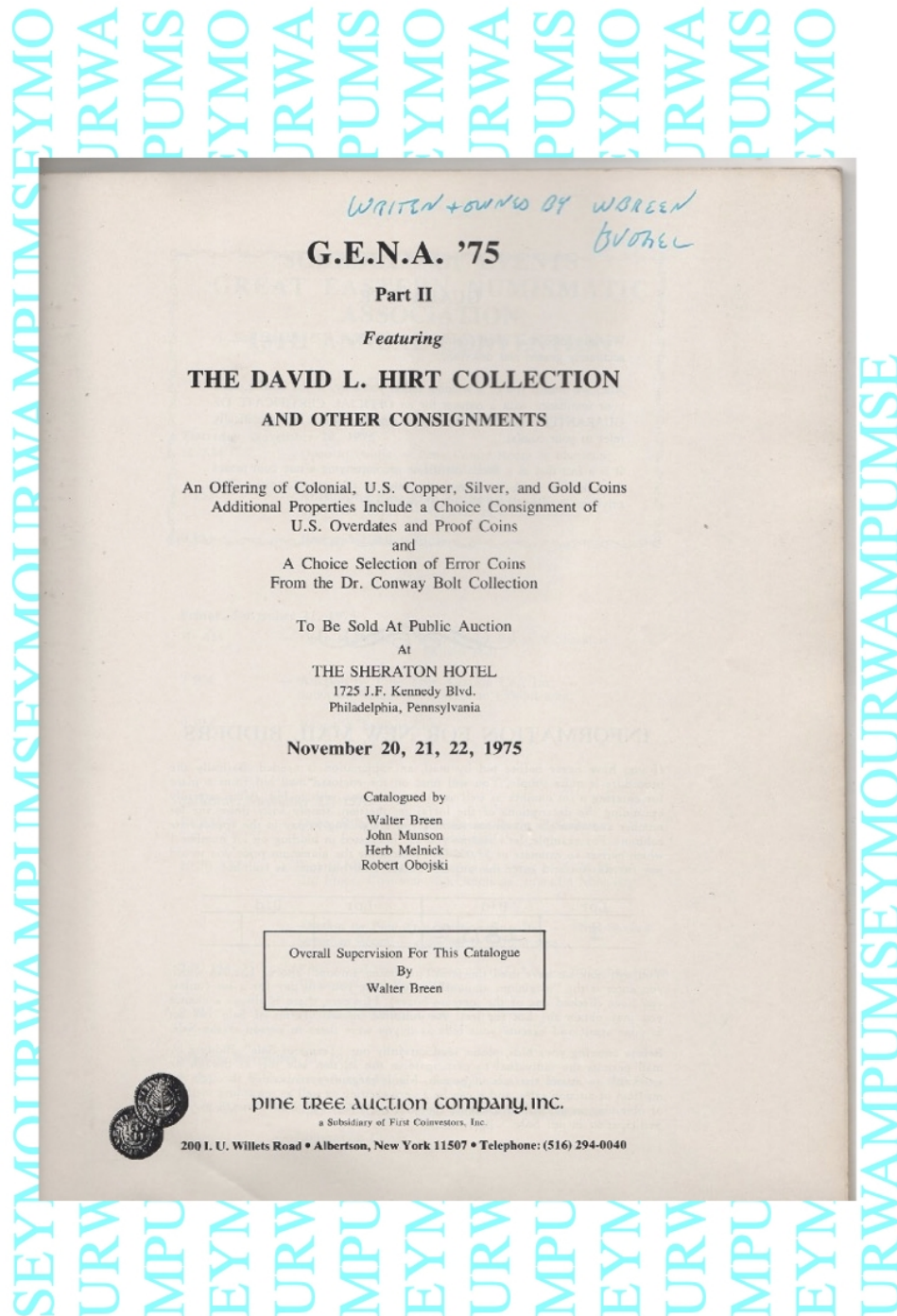
43: 1d 1874 670 930
 2 680 990
 3 300 130
 4 1874 670 930
 5 680 990
 6 300 130
 7 1874 670 930
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 9 300 130
 10 1874 670 930
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 Supt DR JOSEPH T. SINGLETON
 DAVID H. MASON BROUGHT W/ HM
 2 PCS
 1835 D & 5 DIES 1/26/
 4/17/38 [80] \$5 ONE TO PATTERSON
 (IN SI?) [29,583]
 1839 \$5 4/10-14 [18939] \$2 1/2 [13674] { 5467
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 4 4/14 1975
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WB's annotated G.E.N.A. PTA 11/1975.



- 1349 **1880. B-4. Brilliant prooflike gem, nearly complete knife-rim, excellent sharp strike;** we lingered long over this wondering if it is in fact a carelessly made Proof, and we are not even now completely certain that it is not. Worth a good price for exactly what it is; if a business strike, it is unlikely to be equalled without a prolonged search. (Photo)
Obv. as B-1. Rev. 14th tip of 1 minutely below adjacent leaf tip; faint recutting within left loops of 88; plainer recutting at left within O. The die usually found on proofs.
- 1350 **1880. Brilliant Prooflike Uncirculated and choice.** From a minuscule 1,636 mintage! Rare in all grades, especially in mint state.
- 1351 **1881. "Satin" gem Uncirculated.** Sharply struck. A beauty and from a low 7,707 mintage.
- 1352 **1882. Choice Brilliant Prooflike Uncirculated; superb! Low 5,125 mintage. (Photo)**
- 1353 **1883. Brilliant semi-prooflike Gem Uncirculated.** As nice as they come. Only 11,007 struck. (Photo)
- 1354 **1883. Another. Frosty Uncirculated.**
- 1355 **1884. Brilliant Prooflike Uncirculated.** Low 6,236 mintage.
- 1356 **1886. Brilliant Prooflike Unc. Faint Hairline**
- 1357 **1886. Prooflike Uncirculated, cleaned; 1886, EF, traces of lustre, polished. Two Pes.**
- 1358 **1888. Frosty Uncirculated.** Very scarce.
- 1359 **1889. "Satin" choice Uncirculated.** Popular final year of the denomination. Very desirable.
- 1360 **1889. Another. Brilliant semi-prooflike Uncirculated,** mostly choice.
- 1361 **1889. A third. Brilliant About Uncirculated.**
- RARE 1885 PROOF**
- 1362 **1885. B-5. Extremely Brilliant Proof.** A few lint marks and pre-striking flan chips, as made, not impairments, and most of these on reverse; faint localized rev. cloudiness, will yield to ammonia. Very similar to "Rio Rancho" 67 (though from different dies) at \$1,400. (Photo)
Obv. extra outlines on letters. Rev. extra outlines on DOLLAR and wreath except at top, more prominently at right; die of Beck 84. s
- constant, and doubtless was responsible for the later modifications represented by the Large Head of this year). Possibly ex Ruby III lot 986. (Photo)
Small head, date distant; arrows join A and almost touch C; first A almost touches wing and M; diagonal lines in second white stripe; no recuttings at bases of letters; not yet cracked from wing tip to r. border.
- 1364 **1834. No Motto. Extremely Fine Plus** with considerable remaining mint lustre, nicely struck, lightly nicked in a few places about the rims.
- 1365 **1834. Another. Very Fine plus,** no outstanding nicks, scratches, or bruises, just the light even wear of the grade.
- 1366 **1835. VF/EF, some lustre,** softly struck, lightly nicked in a few places about the rims.
- 1367 **1835. Another. Very Fine,** traces of lustre.
- 1368 **1835. A third. Very Fine.** A faint bit more wear than preceding.
- 1369 **1836. Head of 1835. B. B2, state II. Brilliant Unc.,** usually light evidence of a sojourn in a mint or bank sack; rather weakly struck in centers. The variety is often enough seen in lower grades, but it is unheard-of in full unc.; the most recent auction record we could locate for this variety in mint state was lot 923, "Cicero" sale (New Netherlands 55th, Dec. 1960), and that piece was scratched up. A very few other 1836's have sold in this grade from different dies, mostly at prices a little under the 1834 even though rarer than the latter. (Photo)
The familiar variety with crack from rim through 6th star, L, hair just above ear, but not reaching border; no cracks through letters
- 1370 **1836. Head of 1835, same dies, state IV. About Unc.,** some brilliance, same central weakness of striking as on last (and others of this type), various bag marks including a couple of small plain rim nicks on either side. Finer than lots 1803-4 in our 1974 GENA sale. Identical twin of Breen I lot 56 at \$950, and not impossibly the same coin. (Photo)
Cracks through bases of STATES.
- 1371 **1836. Extremely Fine,** considerable lustre, usual strike with soft central detail, mostly choice.
- 1372 **1836. Another. Most details and surfaces Very Fine,** though some details are only Fine.
- 1372A **1839/38C. B-2. Obv. Extremely Fine, rev. Very Fine;** surfaces consistent with a grade of VF or better. Minutely nicked in a couple of places about reverse rim.
Late state, overdate no longer plain.

QUARTER EAGLES

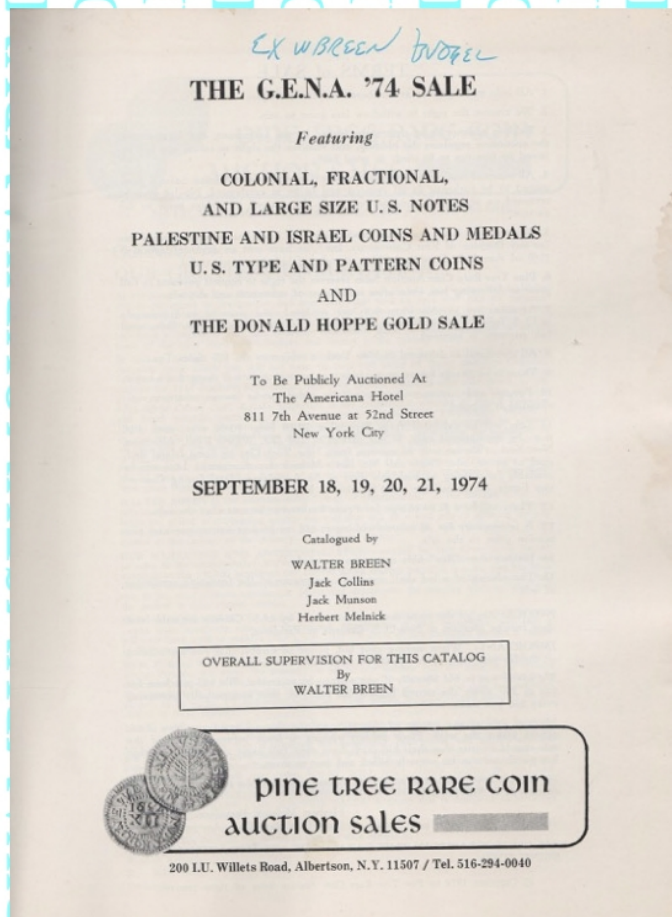
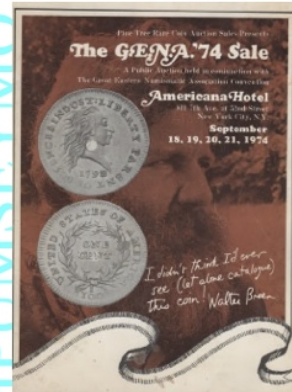
CLASIC HEAD

- 1363 **1834. No Motto, Classic Head. Small Head. Breen B1,** state II (R-3). **Brilliant prooflike Unc., splendid, choice, a remarkable beauty;** free of all but the most microscopic evidence of ever having been in a mint sack. Records in this grade are few though the coin is readily enough obtained in VF for a price. Finer than Gibson 99, or than Beck 104, finer even than Breen II lot 568. **Similar in overall quality to the large head coin which brought a resounding \$4,250 as lot 1062, Stanley Scott sale. Marked "Finest Known" by consignor,** which is not going to be far from the truth—we have not seen a finer business strike from these dies, and the difference would be entirely in having one or two fewer microscopic bag marks; surfaces cannot be faulted, striking quality is equal to any we have seen (the localized weakness in central obv. is as made and

CORONET TYPE

- 1373 **1841 C. B-2 (high R-6, nearly R-7). Brilliant About Unc.,** usual extensive minute indications of having been in a mint or bank sack; mediocre strike, but we have never seen a really sharp impression from these dies. Lamination defect on broad border outside dentils opposite 11th star and below, as made. Rev. superior to obv. but has a couple of small nicks in knife-rim. This is at least tied for best seen from these dies; finer than the Gilhousen, Beck, 1974 GENA, or other examples seen, and one of the best met with for the date. (Photo)
Rev. different from 1840, serif of C buried in feather, clash mark from beak to wing, heavy crack from wingtip to left border. Die of Gilhousen (32, Beck 11).
- 1374 **1841 D. Nearly AU, much mint brilliance,** several light rim nicks on either side; various tiny field bag marks. Apparently unknown in mint state, this is as fine as we have seen in many years, except for the

WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/74.



- 1798 1889. B-2. **Very sharp Choice Uncirculated**, last year of issue specimen. Magnificent soft toning enhances appealing satin-like surface. (\$500.-600.)

**QUARTER EAGLES
CAPPED BUST RIGHT
HERALDIC EAGLE DESIGN (1797-1807)**

- 1799 1806/4. B-1. Details range from **VG** to nearly **VF** in sharpness, surfaces lightly porous and nicked; a glass discloses signs of repair in several places, effective enough that it is impossible to tell if solder ever touched this coin—more likely initials or the like were removed. Acceptable example of this rarity, only 1,136 made (the other 480 for the year were 1806/5 coins). Ex Gilhausen 105, laconically described as "VG". (Photo) (\$2,000.-up)
- 1800 1807. Only the one variety; popular final year of the design. Details range from **Fine** to **VF**, surfaces granular, especially below central obv., above central rev.; rim nick above first T of STATES, slightly bent area above B. A glass shows that edge right of that area has been smoothed down (not visible from either side), but there are no other definite signs of repairs. (Photo) (\$1,500.-up)

**CLASSIC HEAD—LIBERTY CAP REMOVED
MOTTO REMOVED FROM REVERSE 1834-1839
Diameter 18.2 mm; Reeded edge**

- 1801 1834. Large or "booby" head. B-C2, not in original monograph; differs from all others in having semi-split berry, its two halves almost joined, its stem normal; fraction free of bar; A free of wing, M normally formed. State II, with crack from rim through left wingtip, but as yet without the cracks through bases of ATES OF or centers of AMER. **Brilliant borderline AU**, some details of full mint sharpness, centers weak as usual; much original proof surface, but too many minute bag marks to sustain a grade of unc.; other signs of handling, several tiny rim nicks. **Rarity 6**. (Photo) (\$600.-700.)
- 1802 1835. B-1. Rev. Die of 1834 II-3 (U in UNITED close to leaf; A M apart; split berry). **Extremely Fine**, the attractive surfaces retaining much original mint lustre around the devices; a couple of barely discernible rev. edge nicks, otherwise without any blemishes of more than microscopic importance. (\$575.-675.)
- 1803 1836. Head of '35. B. II-2, state IV; cracked from rim through 6th star to L, hair, and rim between last two stars, a branch going towards chin; cracked through STATES OF. **Brilliant Borderline Unc.**, centers weak as almost always, elsewhere sharp; small plain obv. field scratch, rev. faint pin scratches; faint traces of old cleaning, but overall very pleasing and very far above average. Believed to be Ex. "Cicero" sale (New Netherlands 55th), lot 923. (Photo) (\$900.-1,250.)
- 1804 1836. Head of '35. Another B. II-2, but state II—crack through 6th star to L, none of the others. **Just VF**, traces of mint lustre, plain shallow border dent opposite second star. (\$250.-375.)
- 1805 1836. Head of 1837. (Readily identified by hair sloping back abruptly above headband, very distant from 6th star). Rev. Elongated claw-shaped berry broken away from stem; die of Grant Pierce 1091. B. III-2. **Very Fine**, traces of lustre around letters, usual minute bag marks, small obv. rim dent. **Very rare**, probably high R-6. (\$225.-325.)
- 1806 1836. Head of 1837. B.-C3, not in original monograph. Same obv. as preceding; rev. of B. II-2, above, and cracked the same; three cracks from rim to device, through 6 and above 3rd and 12th stars. **Obv. a little short of EF, rev. well within that level**, some mint lustre; centers weakly struck as usual; usual minute bag marks, several tiny rim nicks. **Extremely rare**, no auction records recent enough to mean anything; this variety discovered by Harry Bass and believed to be still low **Rarity 7**. (Photo) (\$325.-425.)
- 1806A 1837. B-1. Seventh star points almost between two curls; rev. without stem to berry. Die state IV cracked from ninth star down into hair past Y (compares with Gilhausen lot 121). **VF overall** with some deals of hair and rev. eagle device approaching EF in sharpness. Generally well struck, though with some of the usually seen flatness of detail at central obverse. Half a dozen or so rim nicks, both sides, one of the more noticeable ones about 11:00 o'clock of obverse. **Rarity 4**. (\$325.-425.)
- 1807 1839-O. B-1. Mintmark on obv. above date. Small arrowheads, widely spaced 1/4. State II: cracked from 2 in denomination to uppermost leaf point, through I in UNITED to border; also bases of ITED. **Almost Uncirculated**, the surfaces retaining almost complete original mint lustre, nicely overlaid with highly attractive touches of antique reddish-gold patina. (Photo) (\$1,200.-1,600.)
- 1808 1839-O. Same dies as last, B-1; same die state. **Extremely Fine**, with generous splashes of the original mint frost around the devices on either side. A very attractive example of the only year of this design from the New Orleans Mint. (\$650.-775.)

CORONET TYPE 1840-1907

Diameter 18 mm; Reeded Edge

- 1809 1840 O. B-1; low date, plainly double-punched 18 (only the one variety). **Strong Very Fine** with traces of remaining mint surface. One tiny obv. rim nick about 2:30 and a faint pin scratch on Liberty's cheek otherwise less than usual evidence of handling for the grade. One of those mintmarks not supposed to have been made according to the Mint Director's annual report and for this reason long considered an extreme rarity. **Borderline R-5**. (\$750.-900.)
- 1810 1845 O, another. Also a **strong VF** with similar sharpness to the last coin but with brighter (cleaned) surfaces. One tiny rev. rim nick (11:00 o'clock) and normal light evidence of handling for the grade. (\$700.-850.)

The Scarce 1848

- 1811 1848. B-2, the only dies used for business strikes. **Very Fine or better**, some mint lustre, some light bag marks; obv. nicked on device and lower rim. **Rare**, in high demand. (Photo) (\$800.-1,000.)

One of the Finest Known 1848 "CAL"

- 1812 1848 CAL over eagle. **Brilliant, sharp, prooflike**, but has suffered superficial obv. field scratches; light hairlines. **Full mint sharpness except on left wingtip and parts of eagle's neck and leg feathers**, which were not well struck up. Believed to be one of 5 or 6 top examples; considerably finer than the EF in Stack's May 1974 sale, lot 362, at \$8,000. **Rare**, probably between 2% and 3% surviving out of 1,389 originally minted in December 1848 from the 320 oz. native gold shipped

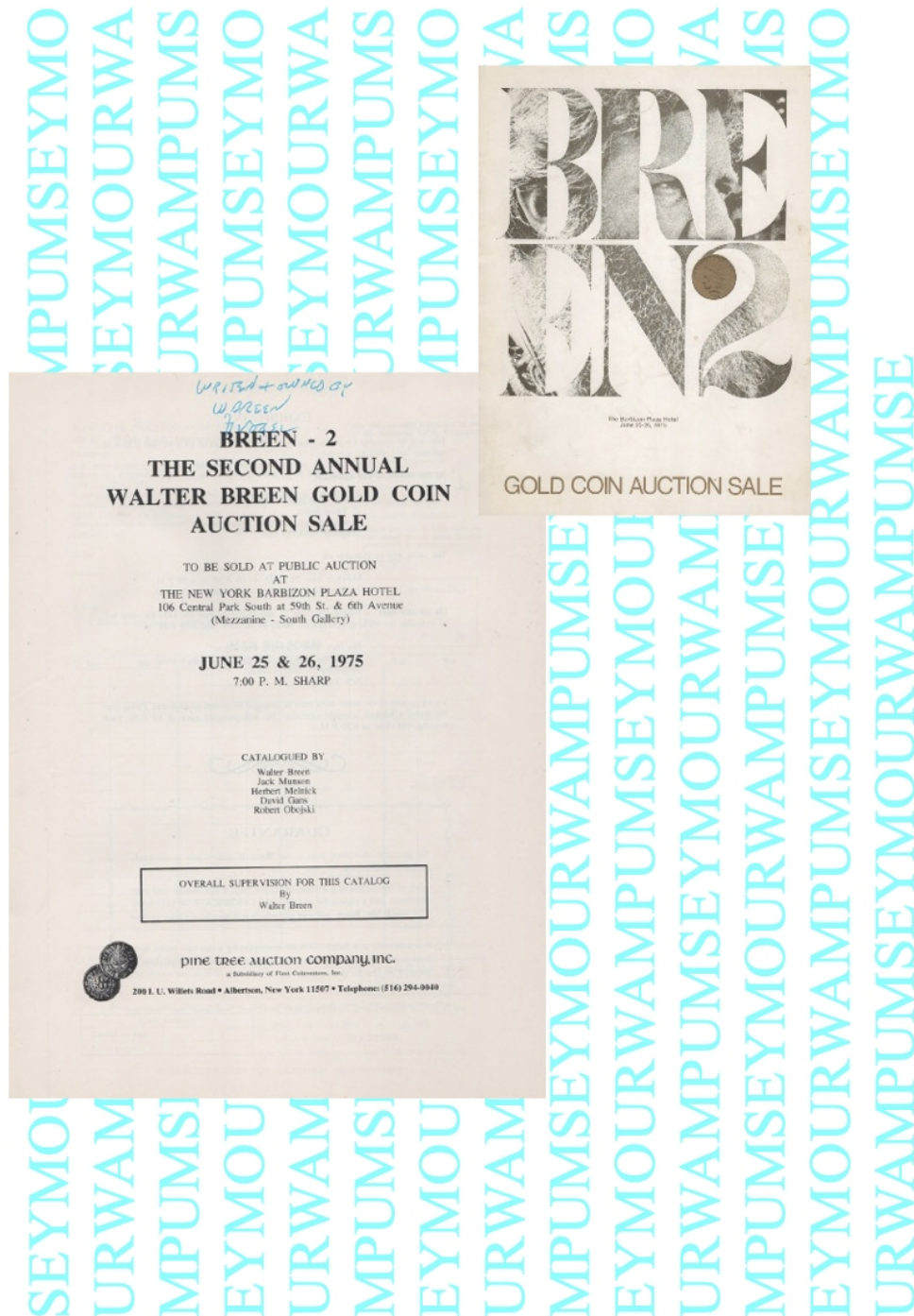
\$2½ CHARLOTTE GOLD

- 1963 1838-C. B-1. Only the one variety of the year seen to date. Obverse, fully **Very Fine** in sharpness, the reverse, more like **Fine**, the field above eagle's head reworked, probably to remove some light surface damage. Still, a thoroughly acceptable example of this very rare date, only a mere 7,880 struck, of which only a tiny fraction of 1% thereof survive today in all grades.
(**\$500.-600.**)
- 1964 1840-C. B-3, not in original monograph (**Rarity-5**). Recut 1 in date, Rev. C mintmark rests against end of feather; the identical dies of "Quality Sales" September, 1973 coin, lot 1032. **Very Fine**, rather boldly struck, the surfaces a trifle granular from mingling in a bag. Very rare, only 12,822 minted. (**\$675.-825.**)
- 1965 1841-C. B-2. Serif of small C mintmark obliterated by feather; plain die clash mark from beak to wing. **Sharpness of Extremely Fine**, bolder than usual, with faint traces of mint lustre. One small obv. border nick, but no other handling marks worthy of description. Very rare, this variety **R-7**. Low mintage of only 10,281 coins. (**\$650.-800.**)
- 1966 1843-C. B-B 1(High **Rarity-4**). Large date, showing double outlines above base of 1 and below base of 843; rev. with large C mintmark overlapping feather. **Nearly Extremely Fine**, a little softly struck near centers but with highly lustrous surfaces, overlaid with beautiful sprinklings of iridescent reddish-gold patina; highly attractive. (**\$650.-800.**)
- 1967 1843-C. Same dies at last, B-BI. **Very Fine**, the obv. really closer to **Extremely Fine** in sharpness. Attractive surfaces, with no blemishes of more than microscopic importance. (**\$600.-750.**)
- 1968 1847-C. B-1 (low **Rarity-4**). 1 and 7 in date touch bust. Rev. with die rust under first T in STATES; C mintmark heavily overlaps stem. **Very Fine**, striking quality about the same as last, with obv. bolder than reverse. Very scarce date and mintmark, only 23,226 struck. (**\$550.-700**)
- 1969 1848-C. B-1 (**Rarity-5**). Date slants down to right; faint die file marks at border right of 8 and below first star. Late die state: in addition to the usual cracks from wingtips to borders, the die has further cracked from rim to top of E in STATES and from base of M in AMERICA to eagle. **Very Fine**, some areas closer to **Extremely Fine**, partly lustrous and rather attractive. Rare, only 16,788 pieces minted in all. (**\$600.-800.**)

DAHLONEGA QUARTER EAGLES

2002 1839/38-D. B-2, die of Gilhousen 126. Obv. recuttings on stars are now difficult to see. Rev. lapped die, thin leaves, no berry. **Obv. VF** with traces of original lustre, **rev. Fine plus**. Not in the original monograph, this variety was discovered by Harry Bass and is the rarer of the two known, forming a small minority of the couple of hundred-odd survivors—between 1.3% and 1.8% of the original 13,674 mintage. **Desirable as first Dahlonega quarter eagle and the only Classic Head date from this mint; the only one with mintmark above date. (Photo)** (\$550.–750.)

WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/1975.



granularity in planchet (before striking); three shallow and completely trivial rim dents, not worth describing. A beautiful example of this rare date; one of possibly a half dozen surviving in this condition, and certainly an outstanding piece for the collector in need of this design. This is the twin of the Roach-Grant, Pierce-Miles coin (lot 96); it is slightly finer than Ulmer 360 (which was rubbed in fields) at \$5,750. It has not been exceeded in quality in many years, and has not been elsewhere matched in the last couple of decades. (Photo)

RARE 1832

- 566 1832. B-1, only the one variety. Obtained as "BU," this is a brilliant borderline Unc. with a few trivially minute handling marks. Much finer than Beck 102 or that in the Merkin Sept. 1967 sale, this is very similar to WGC 98 and Bell 198, and the identical twin of Winter 501 at a record \$5,500. Lovely. (Photo)

- 567 1832. Another. Sharpness of EF, somewhat porous surfaces more like VF; several tiny rim nicks, one on obv. Finer than Lovi-Turrini piece and at least equal to Gilhousen 116. (Photo)

CLASSIC HEAD, LIBERTY CAP REMOVED
MOTTO REMOVED FROM REVERSE 1834 - 1839

SUPERB 1834

- 568 1834. No motto. Brilliant Unc., choice; as well struck as this comes, which is not saying a great deal, and with a single tiny rev. rim nick, but a genuinely mint state example and as such a rarity, lately quoted in middle four figures for the condition alone. Excellent match for Gibson 99. (Photo)

- 569 1834. Another B-1. Extremely Fine with considerable glossy prooflike surface. Light edge bruises opposite fourth and fifth stars, no other contact marks worthy of description.

CHOICE 1834

- 570 1834. "Large Head." Brilliant borderline Unc., many very light handling marks, several minute rim nicks, reasonably sharp strike. Obtained as "Ch BU," of course; evidently never passed from hand to hand, but it remained in a mint or bank sack a little too long. Equal to Winter 502 at \$750, but will bring more. Apparently ex Turrini 606. (Photo)

- "Booby head," close to 4. B. C5 (not in original monograph); similar to H-4 including the defective M, but without the double impressions on middle leaf pair, or the recuttings on OF F C, and the leaf is closer to U. (High R-6)

- 571 1834. No Motto. B-C 1. (Low R-4). Brilliant, frosty About Unc. Very nice definition. Faint rim nick opposite sixth star. A highly desirable specimen from the initial year of the Classic Head Design. (Photo)

- 572 1834. Another B-C1. Extremely Fine. Nearly as nice as preceding though with slightly less remaining lustre. Orangy toning. A tiny nick on rev. rim opposite M of AMERICA, but no other marks significant enough to single out for mention.

- 573 1835. B-3. Very Fine, somewhat weak central detail (usual for these). Considerable lustre, and only faint bag marks. Very rare variety, high R-6 (13-30 known). Taller head, 13th star closer to hair, upper ribbon end almost concealed by curl. Rev. stemless berry; leaf near N.

- 574 1836. B-B2. Head of 1835. Very Fine. Two or three tiny obv. rim nicks, some fine hairlines. Rev. No berry; one arrow close to thick part of curve of C; another touches front of left base of A. Die state IV. Prominently cracked through sixth star to the L to hair, etc. Fine rev. cracks through letters.

- 575 1836. B-C2. Head of 1837 Frosty About Unc. Somewhat weakly struck, especially at centers, as usual for the date and type. A couple tiny nicks on both rims. Very rare variety, R-6, in an unusually fine state of preservation. (Photo)

- Hair slopes abruptly back above headband. Rev. elongated claw-shaped berry, its stem very weak and practically nonexistent, fraction bar touches denominator, die of lot 57 in Breen 1 sale.

- 576 1838. B-1. About Unc. with much remaining mint lustre. Deep yellow color. Faintly nicked on rim opposite 10th star and even fainter insignificant bag marks.

- Rude imitation of 1834 "Booby Head". Rev. plain stem to berry. U near leaf. ST low, AT apart.

- 577 1838. B-1. Another. About Unc. Maybe a slight bit sharper than preceding. Most of the original surface intact. Somewhat more prooflike than lustrous. Fairly noticeably nicked in three or four places about the rims, otherwise choice.

- 578 1838. A third B-1. Extremely Fine to About Unc. Mostly lustrous and well struck. Four or five very tiny nicks on obv. rim, and faintly hairlined.

TWO EXAMPLES OF THE SCARCE
1838-C

- 579 1838 C. About Unc., sharp, though obtained as "Borderline Unc." Lustrous, somewhat granular surfaces (apparently as made), with several tiny rim nicks, mostly on obverse. (The depressed line on cheek extending to second star is from foreign matter in die; compare those in New Netherlands 49th and 55th sale, our 1974 GENA sales, etc.) In this condition very rare; equal to Walton 2765 and Miles 106, much finer than than in the 1974 ANA Convention sale. (Photo)

- Only the one variety; late die state, with both reverse cracks.
- 580 1838 C. Obverse, fully Very Fine in sharpness, the reverse, more like Fine, the field above eagle's head reworked, probably to remove some light surface damage. Still, a thoroughly acceptable example of this very rare date, only a mere 7,880 struck, of which only a tiny fraction of % thereof survive today in all grades. (Photo)

OVERDATE

- 581 1839/8. B-1. Extremely Fine to AU. Considerable mint surface. Faintly nicked in four or five places about obv. rim. Scattered tiny bag marks. Rare, high R-4 and possibly R-5, approximately 100 estimated survivors. Popular overdate.

Only the one variety.

OVERDATE

- 582 1839/38 C. B-2. Obv. of Ex. Fine sharpness, rev. VF; surfaces consistent with VF or better. The light bag marks are not worth mention except for a couple of minute rev. rim nicks. Twin of Miles 108 and possibly the identical specimen. (Photo)

Late state, overdate no longer plain.

OVERDATE

- 583 1839/8 D. B-2. Sharpness of VF, though with some details of rev. eagle device only Fine, probably due

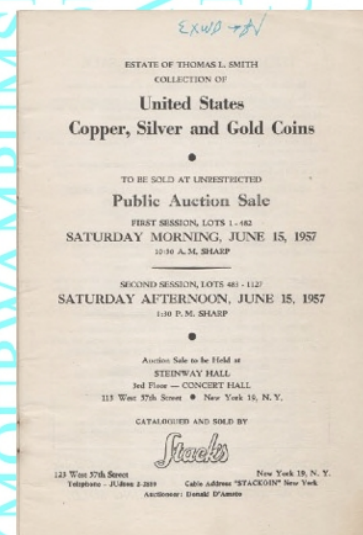
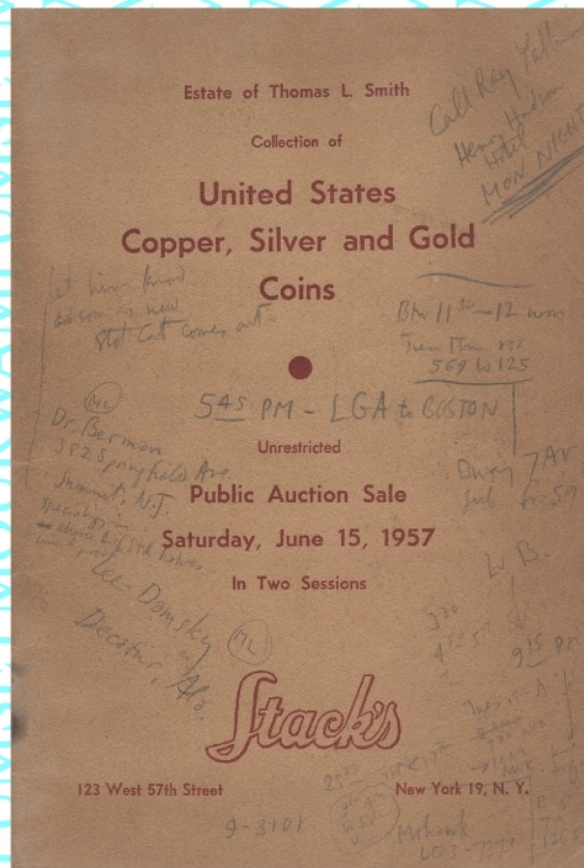
U.S. QUARTER EAGLES

more to the quality of the strike than wear. Not in the original Breen Monograph, variety discovered by Harry Bass and rarer of two known for this date, forms a small minority of a 100-odd survivors of the original **13,674 mintage**. First Dahlonega Quarter Eagle and only Classic Head coin from this mint; the only one with mintmark above date. Slightly finer than lot 2002 in our GENA '74 Sale at \$800. **(Photo)**
Rev. lapped die, thin leaves, no berry.

584 **1839 O. B-1. Very Fine Plus, rev. Extremely Fine and with considerable remaining lustre.** No outstanding rim nicks, etc. Scarce, R-3.

Date high, curved, mintmark left of center above 3. Rev. No berry, arrowshafts disconnected from claws. Die State II with crack from large 2 to top of leaf point, to IT of UNITED.

WB's annotated Stack's 6/1957.



SILVER DOLLARS, GOLD COMMEMORATIVES, GOLD COINS

- 1059 **CIRCULATED DOLLARS.** 1880, 1884 'CC', 1886 'O', 1891 'O', 1900 'S'.
V. Good to Ext. Fine. 5 Pieces.
1060 **PEACE DOLLARS.** 1921, 1922 'S', 1934 'S'. Very Good to Extremely Fine.
3 pieces.

U. S. TRADE DOLLARS

- 1061 1873 First year of issue. Brilliant Proof, hairlines in field. 38-
1062 1873 'CC' About Very Fine. 12-13 brk
1063 1873 'S' Brilliant Uncirculated. ? 32k
1064 1874 'CC' Brilliant Uncirculated. 32k
1065 1875 **Brilliant Proof.** Scarce. Worth \$65.00. I 65-
1066 1875 'S' About Uncirculated. I 5-
1067 1875 'CC' Fine, 1877 Very Fine. 2 pieces. 9-
1068 1876 'S' Very Fine, 1877 'S' Fine. 2 pieces. 7
1069 1877, 1877 'CC' Very Fine. 2 pieces. 27k
1070 1878 'S' Lightly toned Uncirculated. Gem. 11-11 1/2 GK
1071 1879 **Brilliant Proof.** 45-46 J
1072 1880 **Brilliant Proof.** 41-42 JC
1073 1881 **Brilliant Proof,** some hairlines. 30-
1074 1882 **Brilliant Proof.** 53-
1075 1883 **Brilliant Proof.** 60-

U. S. GOLD COMMEMORATIVES

- 1076 1903 McKinley \$1.00. Uncirculated Gem. 31
1077 1903 Jefferson \$1.00. Uncirculated Gem. 29
1078 1904 **Lewis & Clark.** \$1.00. Uncirculated Gem. Worth \$165.00. 162k
1079 1915 Panama Pacific. \$1.00. Uncirculated. 18-
1080 1915 **Panama Pacific.** \$2.50. Uncirculated, however burnished. 55
1081 1916 McKinley \$1.00. Uncirculated Gem. 19-
1082 1922 Grant \$1.00. Uncirculated. 85-90 JC
1083 1922 Grant with Star. \$1.00. Uncirculated. 65-67 RG
1084 1926 Sesqui \$2.50. Uncirculated. 18-

U. S. GOLD COINS

- 1085 **\$1.00 GOLD.** 1856 Fine. *Nichol*
1086 — 1862 Extremely Fine. 12
1087 **\$2.50 GOLD.** 1839 'O' Brilliant Uncirculated Gem. *AU57-58. 4RL-40L*
1088 — 1903 Extremely Fine. *30-35 brk*
1089 — 1911 Very Fine.
1090 — 1915 Very Fine.
1091 — 1928 Extremely Fine.
1092 — 1929 Very Fine.
1093 **\$3.00 GOLD.** 1854 Fine.
1094 — 1855 Very Fine.
1095 — 1870 Extremely Fine. Scarce.
1096 **\$5.00 GOLD.** 1914 'D' Very Fine.
1097 **\$10.00 GOLD.** 1892 'CC' Very Fine.
1098 — 1932 About Uncirculated.

Office Copy ANA 1952 WB's copy.



13	571	1916, McKinley Memorial, Niles, Ohio, brilliant unc. Only 5,517 pieces coined, scarce.
67 1/2	572	Quarter Eagles, 1833. Round cap on Liberty; Motto over eagle. Ex. Fine. This rare coin is almost uncirculated, but it has been cleaned and slightly handled. Worth \$65.00 today.
12	573	1834. New type, no motto over eagle. Ex. Fine. Brilliant, apparently struck as a Proof.
9 1/2	574	1836. Just about uncirculated, lustrous, and with a broken obverse die.
10 1/2	575	1902. Uncirculated. Becoming hard to find so.
22	576	1904. Brilliant uncirculated. Almost perfect.
9 1/2	577	1905. Brilliant "Gem" Proof. A sparkling little beauty.
29	578	1905. Brilliant uncirculated. Unusually choice.
1 1/2	579	1911 "D". The rarest variety of the Bela L. Pratt Indian head design. Ex. Fine. Lists at \$20.00 in only V. Fine.
2 1/2	580	1926. Sesquicentennial. The last Gold Commemorative struck. Brilliant uncirculated.
	581	1926. As the last. Uncirculated. 2 Pcs.
	582	1906/08. Small gold. Almost extremely fine, but with slight indications of handling, and a north

- 1469 Taler 1634. Bust with large lace collar to right. Rev. Arms. Legend ends: "Falkenstein". Compare Cat. Schulthess 5751. Extra fine and rare. (\$40.00)

*Lester Garland S. Stephens
M.D. 1840 - J.V. McDerrett*

QUARTER EAGLES

Locke E.C. Gisher, Milwaukee

Property of the late John Zug, Bowie, Md.

- 1470 1834. New type, without motto. Abt. Ex. Fine. Few minute defects, including a reverse rim nick or so. Becoming uncommon.
- 1471 1836. Strictly Very Fine.
- 1472 1839 "O". Mint mark between the bust and date, on the obverse. The first year of issue and the only date of this type. Uncirculated. Mostly brilliant with an insignificant spot upon the reverse, at the top of the shield. Far superior to the W.G.C. and Menjou examples and as nice as any that we have seen. Only 17,781 pieces struck. Decidedly rare in choice condition. *Plate.*
- 1473 1843 "D". Fine or better. Few minor defects, including a light, hardly noticeable scratch in the reverse field. *Records above*

TMORWAJMS TMORWAJMS TMORWAJMS TMORWAJMS

photocopy.

1834 Proof-like.

Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90028
Telephone: (213) 466-4595, or toll free outside California (800) 421-4224
Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA



29 May 1980

Mr. Walter Breen
Post Office Box 352
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Mr. Breen:

I have in my possession a wonderful 1834 \$2.50 in PL condition. Unfortunately, the consignor thinks that it is a Proof and is not willing to take David's word for a final decision. He requested that we send the coin to you. I know you are not thrilled about receiving things in the mail, but could it be done, and what would your charges be?

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert Korver, Manager
Auction Department

RK:cjm

*Your Friends in the Rare Coin Business
Established 1953*

[BV: This type of action usually rubbed WB the wrong direction.]

Gold New Varieties ms.

~~1802-4.~~

1802-4. This should read: 1st star recut, 9 points showing. Right edge of upright of E over space. Later, crack from wingtip at r. to border.

1804. Mintage figure should read 3327 in all. This was a typographical error; the division is correct. The two varieties are respectively Adams 1 and 2; the 13-star variety is represented in Adams b Earle # 2502 and Malcolm Jackson 99.

1821 through ~~22~~ 33. A few ~~more~~ more proofs have turned up of most of these dates but in no case enough to affect rarity levels. For 1824 there is also a "one-sided" proof, ex Woodin 940, ex Cleneay. For 1825 the two ~~m~~ varieties are Adams 1 and 2 respectively.

~~1827~~ 1827. The proof reported is ~~in~~ Woodin 943, also ex Glenway, and also one-sided, the reverse being of proof sharpness but with mint bloom (unpolished die). On all genuine "one-sided proofs" the obv. is perfection with mirror surfaces, the rev. with mint bloom; this holds for all denominations in which they are known.

1834. II-3 should read: 11th and 12th stars recut.

1835-1 ~~mint~~ should read U close to leaf, not wing.

1836 III-2: about 5 now known, two in the Harry Bass collection, a third discovered by Clarence Rareshide, ex Grant Pierce.

1837-1. Later, cracks from both wingtips to borders.

1838-1. Later, recuttings fade out. John Rowe showed me a gem unc.

1839/8 D. Rev. Arrows merge in CA. Later, crack through bases of UNITED; still later, from rim to second T in STATES to eagle's head--this state quite rare.

1839 O-1. I_n date 39 low, mintmark left of center above 3. Rev. D low, first S high, and on some specimens (lapped die?) arrow shafts are disconnected from claws.

~~1840-4.~~

1840. Later, clash mark (?) from wing at left to leg near branch;

C-Mint 1837.

BV archives ARDM 1913:

+++++ ARDM 1913

p.8 San Francisco Mint new Superintendent Thadeus W. H. Shanahan succeeds Frank A. Leach whom served between August 1897 and November 1907 becoming Director Of The Mint. Having resigned latter position in 1909 was reappointed in 1912 as Superintendent Of The Mint to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Edward Sweeney.

Denver Mint Frank Downer gone (retired to San Diego) Thomas Anear succeeded him. F. Downer held position since September 3, 1902.

Assay Office Charlotte closed June 30 1913. Congress failed to make provisions for support beyond that date, such pieces of equipment were valuable for further use were shipped to other institutions.

As for the Charlotte Mint in November 1835 Levi Woodbur [bv check sp] was notified by Secretary Of The Treasury Samuel McComb who had been appointed to select site for Charlotte Branch, he had purchased from William Carson and F. L. Smith a full share containing near four acres of land for \$1,500.00. Proposals for erecting of building were advertised for in the Charlotte Journal, Washington Globe, Richmond Enquirer and the North Carolina Standard. Contract was awarded to Perry Ligon of Raleigh [bv check sp] North Carolina on October 15, 1835, at \$29,800.00 to be completed by January 1 1837. The cost of machinery, to be furnished by the Director Of The Mint at Philadelphia is estimated at \$15,000.00. Coleman Sellers & Sons, Phila.

Furnished the steam engine shaft and etc. for \$8,297.00 while Merric, Agnew & Tyler draw benches and etc. for \$6,690.00 this equipment was shipped to Charlotte in April of 1837. Considerable difficulty occurred in transporting the heavy machinery to Charlotte, and the steam engine was not set up until the middle of August. John H. Wheeler of North Carolina was appointed as the first Superintendent. J. H. Gibbon and John R. Bolton of Pennsylvania were appointed Assayer and Coiner respectively. In December of 1837 the Secretary Of The Treasury was advised as the deposits of gold had amounted to \$130,600.00 and the coinage at \$84,165.00. The dies for this coinage were made at Phila. Mint and in transporting them the Director of Phila. Mint urged Col. Wheeler, the Superintendent to hasten the coinage, and mentioned that although the dies were dated 1838, there was no objection to using them in 1837. The reason given for this haste was that the equipment might be tested and particularly the operation of the coinage press by steam power, which was regarded as in some degrees as experimental. The application of steam power to coinage was first made in this country at the Phila. Mint in 1836.


On the night of July 27 1844, it was nearly destroyed by fire, which occurred in the Coining Room, and nearly consumed the entire building. The machinery was seriously injured but the records being stored in the vault, were not injured. Mr. Caldwell the Superintendent reported that evidently the fire was the work of a thief. As his living apartments [bv confirm] had been entered and articles stolen.

The present building was authorized by Act of March 3, 1845, and was completed at a cost of \$31,572.97, and occupied in 1846, and used for coinage purposes until May 1861, when North Carolina entered the Confederacy and operations were suspended. The building was used during the Civil War as a Confederate hospital. In 1867 the Assay Office at Charlotte was reestablished by Act of Congress dated March 19 and was maintained as such until the close of Fiscal Year 1913.

The mint at Dahlonega [correct sp] was never reopened after the Civil War. Coinage operations were resumed at New Orleans after the Civil War, but were suspended and the coining machinery removed in 1910.

K Jan. 1975:___.


QUARTER EAGLES



Lot No. 103

103	1833	Probably purchased around 1915 (?) because coin came from Henry Chapman and cost \$7.50. The original Chapman envelope and ticket with lot. Grading by the conservative Mr. Chapman Very Good and today we feel at least Fine would be acceptable. Scarce. PLATE
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104	1834	No Motto. New type. Prooflike Brilliant Uncirculated with faint handling marks. Scarce this nice. <i>II-1 plate 92</i>
105	1836	Nice Very Fine. Scarce.
106	1837	Fine-Very Fine. Low mintage. Scarce.
107	1838	Broad rim with narrow denticles. Attractive pale original toning. Choice Extremely Fine.
108	1839-0	Mint mark above date on obverse. Nice Very Fine. Scarce.



Lot No. 109

109	1839-C	Mint mark above date. Recut 39. Faint die breaks on obverse. A choice lustrous About Uncirculated specimen. Sharply struck. (With the H. Chapman, Jr. envelope and ticket - the original owner paid \$4.00 for this coin.) PLATE
110	1839-D	39 over 38. Mint mark above date. Very low mintage. Struck on faulty planchet with lamination at TES on reverse. Overall Fine-Very Fine.
111	1841-C	Attractively toned. Choice About Uncirculated. Sharp strike. <i>cf. ov B2 17</i>
112	1843	Large date. Very Fine.
113	1843-D	Mint mark high, touches end of arrows. Choice Very Fine.
114	1843-O	Small date. Faint die crack connects bottom of date. Mint mark high. Choice Extremely Fine.

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

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Handwritten notes:
- Lot 103: *lovely F*
- Lot 104: *II-1 plate 92*
- Lot 109: *BA not in orig. env. 1838C. 18-7*
- Lot 109: *shattered die*
- Lot 109: *~ AU 1839 old chg*

Cynics Dictionary WB's ms.

numismatics n. A scholarly veneer over competitive greed (see Five Finger Word). Subject of public delusions that identify old coins as automatically valuable. A form of the passion to own something other collectors lack. A combination of "be first in your block to have it" and "beggar your neighbor," often adding "mine's better than yours," and "I ~~can~~ get it cheaper." *also*
I say this with the more freedom, having been a numismatic consultant for thirty-odd years. *cf. from*

coin n. 1. A form of metallic power. 2. Measure of everything and nothing. 3. Solid symbol of a mathematical abstraction. 4. Game counter in business and coin collecting, worthless except when being given up: compare money, coin dealers, numismatists. 5. Means of immortalizing rulers whose subjects often would rather forget them: see numismatics. 6. Popular

322

four-letter word.

Repeat the word often enough and it sounds like "Oink, oink, oink!" (Thank you, Pat Breen.)

coincidences n. Local symmetries in the vast flux of random.

Compare causality, because, karma. The meaningful kind Jung called synchronicity (1961) may indicate common ancestry for the patterns. Vaughan (1979):202-226 and passim. Accordingly, many religionists call them "God's sealed orders," "God's way of remaining anonymous."

"Once is an event, twice is a coincidence, thrice is a pattern." --Heuristic truism.

coin collectors n.phr. Prey of coin dealers. Potential numismatists; therefore, potential cherrypickers.

The game of numismatics is not for the ignorant or the unwary. Its motto is Caveat emptor 'Let the buyer beware.' Beware especially of promotions aimed at the general public (usually offering allegedly rare silver dollars at allegedly bargain prices); learn all you can about grading; do comparison shopping; know your dealer--and his reputation among other dealers. Before you buy anything, read Yeoman (1987) for an overview. More specialized information is in Breen (1987).

coin dealers n.phr. Apt to believe themselves prey of cherrypickers. Nevertheless, many brag to their peers about

the rarities they just cherrypicked from some walk-in yokel. .

Prov. 20:14; Isaiah 24:16. Compare **double standard**.

Even some of the least educated display the title
"Professional Numismatist", like Eeyore's tail pinned to his
rump.

Their pitfalls are **greed**, **dishonesty**, and **stupidity**. For
antidotes, see preceding.

God bless the rare exceptions.

collateral damage n.phr. What war does to innocent bystanders and
the earth: **nukespeak** euphemism. Kidron & Smith (1983), Part
Six.

collecting v. Often, addictive possession. Compare **numismatics**,
numismatists, **coin collectors**, **cherrypickers**, **coin dealers**.

consequences n. 1. Generic **karma**. Compare **causality**. 2. The waves
you make.

This Dictionary's? Those I hope to see: referendums
held; **laws** improved or repealed; **victimless crimes'** penalties
abolished; the more **corrupt politicians** and **demagogues**
ousted; the more **oppressive churches** deserted; **taboos** laughed
out of existence: a world worth living in. Those I fear:
censorship, **enemies' lies** and **calumnies**, trumped-up charges,
prison, **bookburning**, **riots**, **bloodshed**, **civil war**.

YOUR MOVE!

--Carved sidewalk graffito, Milpas St. just north of
Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara.